

*Eliza Giffard - A Nerguis
Hilleshire 1807*

SELECT MANUAL

OF

Divine Meditations

AND

PRAYERS,

Suited to the most

Necessary and Solemn OCCASIONS:

And fitted for

MORNING and EVENING SERVICE
for EVERY Day in the WEEK.

To which is added,

A short OFFICE to be used Before, At, and
After Receiving the HOLY SACRAMENT.

The Whole designed

To Purify the Heart, and to kindle up the FERVOUR of
Devotion in the Minds of all Serious Christians.

Being the last Work of the Reverend and Learned

Mr. JOSHUA SMITH,
Late Minister of St. MARY ALDERMANBURY, and
Lecturer of St MARY LE BOW.

The SIXTH EDITION, Revised and Corrected by
an Eminent Hand.

L O N D O N:

Printed for JOHN and FRANCIS RIVINGTON, at the
Bible and Crown (N^o 62) in St. Paul's Church-Yard.

M.DCC.LXVIII.



TO THE
R E A D E R.

 N the year 1668, there was printed in *Paris*, in the *English Tongue*, a book intituled, *Devotions in the antient Way of Offices*, consisting of *Psalms, Hymns, Antiphones, Lessons* and *Collects*, for every day of the week, and every holy-day in the year.

IT was drawn up by one of the *Romish Communion*, for the use of such religious persons, as were willing to entertain themselves in a spiritual manner, whenever they met together in private, by bearing each their part in these holy offices.

IN order to render these offices serviceable to families and religious societies, the Reverend Dr. *Hickes* was pleased to publish them; but with a reform in those points of doctrine, which are peculiar to the *Roman Faith*. And tho' the good end proposed has not, I fear, been sufficiently answered (partly from an opinion that such liturgical forms are most proper to be used in large assemblies in the church, and partly from a natural bashfulness, which disables many from making the responses with that readiness and freedom, which might be expected from them); yet, for the many instructive and pathetic psalms contained in this reformed book, it hath met with good acceptance and esteem from persons of the exactest piety, and soundest judgment.

BUT some time before this was published by Dr. *Hickes*, a book of devotions was set forth by the Reverend Mr. *Dorrington*, intituled *Reformed Devotions; in Meditations, Hymns, and Petitions, &c.* The main substance of which is taken out of the foreign one, and

and adapted to the secret service of the closet, but with considerable changes and alterations: For he has thought fit to divide and halve the psalms (which he calls by the name of *Meditations*) in order to form the latter part of them into prayers or petitions: He has also destroyed the current measure of the verses, by shortening or lengthening them at pleasure, and annexing thereto many additions of his own; by which means the unity of the composition, and the harmony of the numbers of the original are entirely broken, and the spirit of the author, in the opinion of many, thereby very sensibly abated. And yet this worthy Gentleman's labours have been received with great approbation and esteem, and done much good in the world, as I have reason to believe, from the several editions, thro' which they have already passed, and the fair prospect of many more hereafter to succeed.

INSTEAD therefore of reforming, or refining on the original, I have judged it more eligible to collect such a select number of psalms, as want no other

reforming, than the bare change of some obsolete words, and the transposing of others, to preserve the smoothness of the verses, which, like those of the *Psalms*, and the book of *Job*, are cast into a sort of numeroſe proſe, very grateful to the ear, and of ſingular beauty in the compoſition. I have choſen therefore ſome of the choiceſt of the *Pſalms*, the ſubject matter of which is founded on ſound, primitive, and truly catholic principles; in the uſe of which we may all unite, and with one heart, and one mouth, glorify God the Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

OUT of a hundred and thirty-fix, which are to be found in the above-mentioned *Paris* edition, I have ſelected forty-fix only; and have ranged them in ſuch order, as may ſerve for the morning and evening ſervice of every day in the week. And I am fully aſſured, that every well-diſpoſed chriſtian, who ſhall uſe them by way of meditation, to diſpoſe him for a ſolemn addreſs to God in prayer, will think himſelf obliged to bleſs God for the aſſiſtance here afforded him.

As

As to the *Prayers*, which are subjoined to the *Psalms*, they, for the greater part, are taken from such authors, as are thought to have excelled in this kind of writing. These I have so disposed, that proper offices are appointed for the usual times of daily prayer; and with that variety of forms, that every one may have choice of some one, that may please his taste.

IN a word, the whole is intended for a manual of meditations and devotions, and purposely drawn into so small a compass, to render it the more portable and ready at hand for the use of the faithful servants of Jesus Christ.

AND herein I assume nothing to myself, having only taken upon me the troublesome office of a collector; and tho' this be not a whit more honourable than that of the *Gibeonites*, who were but hewers of wood, and drawers of water, for the service of the tabernacle; yet if, by collecting proper and useful materials, I shall be so happy, as to prove an instrument, under God, of purifying

the heart, and kindling the fervour of devotion in others, I shall think myself highly honoured in the good service that is done them, and rejoice in the pleasing hope of receiving benefit from their prayers, who shall find themselves made better by this humble performance.





It having pleased God to take to himself the worthy COMPILER of this Work, just as he had received the last Sheet from the Press, we shall insert in this Place the following short Character of him, taken from an excellent Sermon, preached the Sunday after his Interment, at the Parish Church of St. MARY LE BOW, by the Rev. Dr. STEBBING.

“ **A** Great and eminent Example of De-
 “ votion we had in the late Excellen-
 “ Mr. JOSHUA SMITH; in whom FAITH
 “ had *its perfect Work*, and who was adorn’d
 “ with all those Graces which are proper to
 “ the Character of a good Christian, and a
 “ good Clergyman. He was a man of sound
 “ Learning, and uncommon Piety; which
 “ he happily recommended, both in his Writ-
 “ ings, and in his Discourses from the Pul-
 “ pit; but much more strongly enforced by
 “ his Life and Conversation. He had a na-
 “ tural *Warmth* and *Liveliness* in his Tem-
 “ per; which might have given some Check
 “ to his Virtues, if he had not perfectly well
 “ understood how to govern himself. But
 “ as the Fear of God was, in him, the pre-
 “ dominant Principle, every Power of the

“ Soul came regularly to its support, and
 “ made his Piety break forth and shine with
 “ the brighter Lustre. He received, with
 “ great Veneration, the Doctrines of Chris-
 “ tianity, as professed in the Antient Church;
 “ was zealously affected towards our Reli-
 “ gious and Civil Establishment, in all its
 “ Branches, from which he never swerved :
 “ Yet his Zeal was conducted with so much
 “ Discretion; so sweeten’d by Modesty, Hu-
 “ mility, and a winning Benevolence ; that
 “ it is not easy to determine who loved him
 “ best, those who *most*, or those who *least*,
 “ differed from him. His Sentiments were
 “ confin’d (as they ought) by solid Judg-
 “ ment, directed by an extensive Knowledge
 “ of the Holy Scriptures, and of Primitive
 “ Antiquity ; but his Charity would admit
 “ of no Bounds.

“ Such an Ornament, such a Support,
 “ had RELIGION, in this good Man ! of
 “ whom I find it hard to say any thing
 “ that I can think equal to his Worth. His
 “ Virtues will live long in the Hearts of all
 “ who knew him (of those, more especially,
 “ who reaped the constant Fruits of his pious
 “ Labours) ; and so long as they are remem-
 “ ber’d, will be best able to speak for them-
 “ selves.”

Sacred



Sacred DEVOTIONS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

PSALM I.



ELCOME, bless'd day, wherein
the Sun of righteousness arose,
and chas'd away the clouds of
fear :

Welcome, thou birth-day of
our hopes ; a day of joy, and public refresh-
ment :

A day of holiness and 'solemn devotion ; a
day of rest, and universal jubilee.

Welcome to us, and our dark world ; and
may thy radiant name shine bright for ever :

May all the earth be enlighten'd with thy
beams ; and every frozen heart dissolve and
sing :

A. 6.

This

12 SUNDAY MORNING.

This is the day which the Lord hath made ; let us be glad and rejoyce therein :

This is the day he hath sanctified to himself ; and call'd by his own most glorious name :

That in it we may meet to adore his greatness ; and admire the wonders of his infinite power ;

That we may remember his innumerable mercies ; and deeply imprint them in the centre of our hearts :

That we may visit his holy temple ; and humbly present our homage at his altar :

That sacred altar, where the sacrifice of praise is offered ; and the memory of our Saviour's love renewed.

Worthy art thou, O Lord, of all our time ; worthy the praises of all thy creatures.

Every moment of our life is bound to bless thee ; since every moment subsists by thy goodness.

Shall others labour so much for vanity ; and shall we not rest for the service of our God ?

Shall we employ the whole week on ourselves ; and not offer, in gratitude, one day to thee ?

To thee, who bestowest on us all that we have ; and wilt give us hereafter more than we hope.

O gracious Lord, whose mercy accepts such slender payment, as our poverty affords ;

Whose

SUNDAY MORNING. 13

Whose bounty grants so liberally to us ;
and retains so small a part for thyself :

O make us faithfully observe our duty ;
and render so exactly the tribute we owe
thee ;

That passing still thy days to thy honour ;
we may end our own in thy favour.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM II.

COME, let us lay aside the cares of this
world ; and take into our minds the joys
of heaven :

Let us empty ourselves of all other
thoughts ; and prepare to receive our most
gracious God :

Retiring from the many distractions of this
life ; and closely recollecting all the forces
of our soul :

So, to pursue in earnest the one thing
needful ; the securing to ourselves the king-
dom of heaven.

Why should we thus neglect that sacred
science, and be busy in every thing but our
own salvation ?

Why should we still forsake the real sub-
stance ; to embrace an empty shadow ?

Miserable are they, O Lord, who study
all things else ; and never seek to taste thy
sweetness :

Miser-

4 SUNDAY MORNING.

Miserable, tho' their skill can number the stars ; and trace out the wanderings of the planets.

To know thee, O Lord, is to be truly wise ; and to contemplate thee, the highest learning.

But, O thou glorious God of truth ; in whom the treasures of knowledge are all laid up !

Unless thou draw'st the curtain from before our eyes ; and driv'st away the clouds that intercept our sight :

Never shall we see those heav'nly mysteries ; nor discern the beauty of thy providence.

Send forth thy light, O thou Morning-star ! and lead me to thy holy hill !

Send forth thy truth, O increated Wisdom ! and bring me to thy blessed tabernacle :

Shew me Thyself, and thy eternal Father ; and 'twill fully satisfy my utmost desires :

Shew me Thyself alone, O glorious Jesu ! and in thee I shall behold all that I can wish :

Only so much I beg to conceive of thy Majesty ; as may move my heart to seek thee :

Only so much of thy unapproachable Deity ; as may guide my soul to find thee :

If I may not know thee clearly now ; let me know so far, as to long to know thee farther :

If

SUNDAY MORNING. 15

If I cannot love thee perfectly in this life;
let me so love thee, as to desire to love thee
more :

So let me know and love thee here ; O
thou sovereign Bliss of our souls :

That hereafter I may know thee better ;
and love thee more for ever.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM III.

RAISE up thy head, O my soul ! look
up ; and behold the glory of thy cruci-
fy'd Saviour :

He that was dead, and laid in the grave,
low enough to prove himself Man,

Is risen again, and ascended into heaven ;
high enough to prove himself God :

He is risen, and made the light his gar-
ment ; and commanded the clouds to be the
chariot of his triumph :

The gates of heaven obey'd their Lord ;
and the everlasting doors open'd to the King
of Glory :

Enter, bright King, attended with thy
beauteous angels ; and the glad train of thy
redeemed ones :

Enter, and repossess thy antient throne,
and reign eternally at the right-hand of thy
Father.

May

If

16 SUNDAY MORNING.

May every knee bow down to thy exalted name; and every tongue confess thy glory:

May all created nature adore thy power; and the church of thy redeemed, exult in thy goodness:

Whom have we in heaven, O Lord, but thee, who expressly wentest thither to make way for thy followers?

What have we on earth, but our hope, by following thee, to arrive at last, where thou art gone before us?

O glorious Jesu, our strength, our joy, and the immortal life of all our souls!

Be thou the principal subject of my studies; and daily entertainment of my most serious thoughts:

Draw me, O dearest Lord, from the world, and myself; that I be not entangled with any earthly desires.

Draw me after thee, and the odours of thy sweetness, that I may run with delight the way of thy commandments.

Draw me up to thee, on thy throne of bliss, that I may see thy face; and rejoice with thee, for ever in thy kingdom. †

Glory be to the Father, &c.

P S A L M IV.

WH Y should our hearts still dwell upon earth, since the Treasure of our hearts is returned to heaven?

Since

Since our glorified Jesus is ascended above,
to prepare us a place in his own kingdom?

A place of rest, and secure peace; where
we shall see, and praise, and adore him for
ever:

A place of joy, and everlasting fruition;
where we shall love, possess, and delight in
him for ever.

O happy we, and our poor souls, if once
admitted to that blissful vision!

If once those heav'nly portals unfold their
gates; and let us in to the joys of our Lord:

How will our spirits be ravish'd within
themselves; to reflect on the fulness of their
own beatitude!

How shall we all rejoice in one another's
felicity; but infinitely more, in the infinitely
greater felicity of our God!

O heaven, towards thee I lift up my lan-
guishing head; and with stretch'd-out hands
reach at thy glory!

When, O thou Finisher of all my hopes!
when shall I once behold that incomparable
light?

That light, which illuminates the eyes of
angels, and renews the youth of saints:

That light, which is thy very self, O Lord
my God! whom I shall there see, face to
face:

Whom I shall there know, even as I am
known; I shall know thee in thy own clear
light:

O glo-

18 SUNDAY MORNING.

O glorious light, shine thou perpetually on my eyes ; that thy brightness may darken the false lustre of this world :

O strongly dart thy flames upon my heart ! that thy heat may consume all other desires :

That I may burn continually with the chaste love of thee ; 'till thy bright eternal day appear :

'Till I be called from this vale of darkness, into the glorious presence of the living God :

To see him who made the heavens and the earth ; and disposeth all creatures in so beauteous an order :

To see him, who first gave us our being ; then govern'd us in our way, and brought us at length to so bless'd an end.

Mean while, O gracious Lord, the crown of all thy saints ; and only expectation of thy faithful servants :

Make us entertain our life with the comfort of this hope ; and our hope with the assurance of thy promises :

Make us still every day more perfectly understand our own great duty, and thy infinite love :

Make us continually meditate the advancement of thy glory ; and invite all the world to sing thy praises :

Praise our Lord, O ye holy angels ! praise him, O ye happy saints !

Praise

SUNDAY EVENING. 19

Praise him, O ye faithful departed in his grace ! praise him, O ye living, who subsist by his mercy :

Praise him in the vast immensity of his power ; praise him in the admirable wisdom of his providence :

Praise him in the bless'd effects of his goodness ; praise him in the infiniteness of all his attributes :

Be thou for ever praised, O glorious God ! and to all the felicities, thou essentially possessest, may every creature say, Amen.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

PSALM V.

LET them, O Lord, seek other delights ; who expect no felicity from thee :

Let them fill up their time with other employments ; who think thy rewards not worth their labour :

As for thy servants, their chief delight will be, to meditate the glories prepar'd in heav'n for us :

All the few days they live, shall spend themselves ; to purchase that one eternal day :

That

20 SUNDAY EVENING.

That day, whose brightness knows no night ; nor ever fears the least eclipse :

Whose chearful brow no cloud o'ercasts ; nor storm molests the passage of its rays :

But still shines on serene and clear ; and fills with splendour that spacious palace :

It needs not the fading lustre of our sun ; nor the borrow'd silver of the moon :

The sun that rises there, is the Lamb ; and the light that shines, the glory of God.

O how beauteous truths are sung of thee, thou city of the King of heav'n !

Thy walls are rais'd with precious stones ; and every gate is of one rich pearl :

Thy mansions are built with choicest jewels ; and the pavement of thy streets is transparent gold :

Down in the midst runs a chrystal stream ; perpetually flowing from the throne of God :

There, all along those pleasant banks, deliciously grows the tree of life :

Healing all wounds with its balmy leaves ; and making immortal, all that but taste its fruit.

Thus is the holy city built ; thus is the new *Jerusalem* adorn'd.

O glorious and joyful city ! how free, and happy are thy glad inhabitants !

Every head wears a royal crown ; and every hand a palm of victory !

Every eye overflows with joy ; and every tongue with psalms of praise.

Behold,

Behold, O my soul, the inheritance thou seek'st; and where canst thou find more riches to invite thee!

Behold, the felicities to which thou art call'd; and where canst thou meet such pleasures to delight thee!

Away then, all vain and worldly desires; be banish'd for ever from molesting my peace:

Descend thou, bless'd Heaven, into my heart; or rather, take up my heart to thee:

Thy joys, are too great to enter into me:
O make me fit to enter into them:

Make me still think on my country above;
and there establish my eternal home:

Where, I shall perpetually dwell in the view of my God; and be filled for ever, with the sweetness of his presence.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

P S A L M VI.

BLESS'D be thy gracious wisdom, O Lord! that so mercifully stoops to our low conceits:

Under these veils, thou hid'st those glorious mysteries; too high and spiritual for flesh and blood:

Thou hid'st, or rather so reveal'st thy sublime rewards; to take us with things we most admire:

Sceptres

Sceptres and crowns thou know'st are apt
to win the hearts of us thy children :

Children, alas! too truly in useful know-
ledge, O that we were so, in love and duty!

What is a drop of water, to the boundless
ocean; or a grain of dust, to this vast globe?

Such, O my God, and infinitely less, are
the richest kingdoms here below;

Should we compare their most pompous
state, to the meanest degree in the court of
heaven.

When thou hast fed us awhile with milk;
thou invit'st our appetite to stronger meat :

Thou tell'st us of a sweet delicious life, in
the bless'd society of saints and angels :

With whom we shall dwell in perpetual
friendship; and be lov'd and esteem'd by
them all for ever :

Thou tell'st us of a pure soul-ravishing
joy, to behold the amiable face of Jesus :

Whose gracious smiles shine round about;
and fill the heavens with holy gladness :

Thou tell'st us still of incomparably higher
delights; hearken, O my soul, and humbly
adore thy God :

Whose bounty has provided thee large
rewards; since they are no less than his very
self :

Himself he will clearly unveil before us ;
and openly shew us that great secret.

O happy secret, if once at last attain'd ; if
once we but see the face of our God !

What

What is it, glorious Lord, to see thy face;
but to know thee as thou art, in thy own
blest being ?

To know the immensity of thy self-sub-
sisting essence ; and the infinite excellence of
all thy attributes :

To know the power of the eternal Father ;
and the wisdom of the uncreated Son :

To know the goodness of the Holy Ghost ;
and the incomprehensible glory of the undi-
vided Trinity.

This, O my soul, is the top of happiness ;
this the supreme perfection of our nature :

This, this alone, is the aim of our being ;
the hope and end of all our labours :

When we are come to this, we shall pre-
sently rest ; and our satisfy'd desires reach no
farther :

We shall be fill'd with overflowing bliss ;
and our utmost capacities hold no more :

But in one act of joy, be pleasingly fix'd ;
and that one act spring afresh for ever.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM VII.

ARISE, my soul, to thee these joys
belong ; arise, and advance thyself on
high :

Leave here below all earthly thoughts ;
and fly away with the wings of thy spirit :

Fly

Fly to that glorious land of promise ; and gladly salute those heavenly regions :

Hail, happy paradise of pure delights ; thou beauteous garden of never fading flowers !

Hail, bless'd society of glorify'd spirits ; who perpetually contemplate the eternal Deity !

Hail, and for ever may your glories grow ; 'till they rise so high, they can grow no more !

Hail, and among your chearful hymns remember us ; who dwell below in this vale of tears !

We hope one day to come up to you ; and be plac'd to sing in your holy choirs.

We hope to know that all producing cause ; we hope to know all that it has produc'd.

O what a fire of love will it kindle in our hearts, when we shall see those mysteries unfolded !

O what excessive joy will that love produce ; a love so violently desiring, and so fully satisfy'd.

When our capacities shall be stretched to the utmost ; and the rich abounding object fill and o'erflow them !

When, without losing what we are ; we shall become even what he is :

We shall take part in all his joys ; and share in the glories of all his heaven !

O what

SUNDAY EVENING. 25

O what divine and ravishing words are these ! how gently they enter, and delight my ear !

How they diffuse themselves over all my brain : and strongly penetrate to my very soul !

Methinks they turn to substance as they go ; and I feel them work, and stir thro' all my powers :

Methinks they lie as a cordial at my heart ; and send forth spirits to quicken and refresh me.

There, O my soul, thou shalt rest from all thy labours ; which are but the way to all that happiness.

There, thou shalt rest from sin and sorrow ; and be no longer troubled with thyself or others.

There, thou shalt rest for ever, in the protection of thy God ; in the arms and bosom of thy dearest Lord.

O Heav'n ! the eternal source of all these joys ; and infinitely more, and infinitely greater !

As the hart pants after the water-brooks ; so let my soul thirst after thee.

After thee, let me daily sigh and mourn ; and with a fix'd and longing eye, look up, and say ;

When, O my God, shall I sit at that fountain-head ; and drink my fill of those living streams !

B

When

When shall I be satisfy'd with that torrent of pleasures ; which springs for ever from thy glorious throne !

O that the days of my banishment were fully finish'd : how is the time of my pilgrimage prolong'd !

Why am I still detain'd in this valley of tears ? still wandering up and down in this wilderness of dangers !

Come, thou sweet Jesu, my only Hope ; and sure Deliverer out of all my sorrows :

Come thou, and here begin to dwell in my heart ; and fit me for the life I shall lead hereafter.

Come, O my dearest Lord, and prepare my soul for thee ; and when thou pleasest, take it to thyself.

Glory be to the Father, &c.





MONDAY MORNING.

PSALM VIII.



COME, let us sing the praises
of our God; and joyfully re-
cite his divine perfections:

His being is from himself
alone; and his eternal essence

no dependence knows:

His knowledge fathoms the extent of all
things; and his power commands them as
he pleases:

His goodness is supremely infinite; and
all his glorious attributes transcendently ad-
orable.

Come, let us sing the praises of our
God; and joyfully recite his divine perfec-
tions:

He is the ever-flowing source of all feli-
city; eternally full of his own unchangeable
bliss:

Before the birth of time, he was; and
when the sun must lose its light; his day re-
mains the same for ever:

The heav'n of heav'ns is the palace of his
glory; and all created nature the subject of
his dominions:

28 MONDAY MORNING.

In his presence the brightest seraphims veil their faces ; and all the blessed spirits bow down before his footstool.

Come, let us sing aloud, the glory of our God ; and stretch our utmost thoughts to exalt his greatness :

But, O most glorious and dreadful Deity ! how dare we wretches undertake thy praise ?

How dare our sin-polluted lips pronounce thy name ; or where shall we find fit expressions for thee ?

All we can say, is nothing to thy unspeakable excellencies ; all we can think, but a faint shadow of thy unconceivable beauties :

Even the voice of angels, is too low to reach thy worth ; their highest strains fall infinitely short of thy glory :

Only in this, shall thy servants rejoice ; and all the powers of our souls be glad :

That thyself alone art thine own full praise ; be to thyself thine own glory :

Live, our great God, eternally encompass'd with the beams of thy own inaccessible light.

Live, our ador'd Creator, and reign for ever, on the throne of thy own immortal kingdom.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM IX.

EXceeding glorious art thou, O Lord, in thyself; and thy direct ray shines too bright for our eyes:

Yet may we venture to praise thee in thy works; and contemplate thee at least, reflected from thy creatures:

In them we may safely behold our mighty Maker: and freely admire the magnificence of our God:

Heav'n and earth are full of his greatness: heav'n and earth were created by his pow'r:

From him the hosts of angels receiv'd their being; from him they have the honour to assist in his presence:

He kindled warmth and brightness in the sun; and beautifully garnish'd the firmament with stars:

He spread the air, and stor'd it with flocks of birds; he gather'd the waters, and replenish'd them with shoals of fishes:

He establish'd the earth on a firm foundation; and richly adorn'd it with innumerable varieties:

Every element is filled with his blessings; and all the world proclaims his bounty:

He spake the word, and they were made; he commands, and they are still preserv'd:

30 MONDAY MORNING.

He governs their motions in perfect order; and distributes to each its proper office:

Disposing the whole into one vast machine; the spacious theatre of his unlimited greatness.

O glorious architect of universal nature: who disposhest all things, in number, weight, and measure!

How does thy wisdom engage us to admire thee! how does thy goodness oblige us to love thee!

Not for themselves alone, O gracious God; did thy hand produce those happy spirits:

But to receive in charge thy little flock; and conduct them safe to the folds of bliss:

Not for themselves at all, O bounteous Lord; were the rest of this huge creation fram'd:

But to sustain our lives in the way; and carry us to our eternal home.

O may our souls first praise thee for themselves; and employ their whole powers to improve in thy service!

May we praise thee, O Lord, for all thy gifts; but infinitely above all, still value thee Giver:

May every blessing be a motive of gratitude; and every creature, a step of approach to thee!

MONDAY MORNING. 31

So shall we faithfully observe their end ;
and happily arrive at ours :

Using them only to entertain us here ;
till our souls be prepar'd for the life of
heav'n :

Till they become full ripe for thee ; and
then fly away to thy holy presence.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

P S A L M X.

HOW admirable is thy name, O Lord,
over all the earth ! how wise and gra-
cious the counsels of thy providence !

After thou hadst thus prepar'd the world ;
as a house ready furnish'd for man to in-
habit :

Thy mighty hand fram'd our bodies of
the dust ; and built them in a shape of use
and beauty :

Thou didst breathe into us the spirit of
life ; and fit us with faculties proportion'd to
our end :

Thou gav'st us a soul to govern our bodies ;
and reason to command in our soul :

Thou reveal'dst to us a law, for the im-
provement of our reason ; and enablest us
by thy grace to observe that law !

Thou mad'st us lords over all thy crea-
tures ; but little inferior to thy glorious an-
gels :

32 MONDAY MORNING.

Thou compellest whole nature to serve us freely ; and invitest us to love thee for our own happiness :

Thou design'dst us an age of pure delights ; in that fruitful and delicious garden :

Where, having led a long and pleasant life ; thou would'st have transplanted us to thy own paradise.

All this thou didst, O glorious God ; the full possessor of universal bliss !

Not for any need that thou hadst of us ; or the least advantage thou couldst derive from our being.

All this thou didst, O infinite Goodness ; the liberal Bestower of whate'er we possess !

Not for any merit, alas ! of ours ; or the least motive we could offer to induce thee !

But of thy own abundant charity ; and the mere inclination of thy own rich nature :

That empty, we might receive of thy fulness ; and be partakers of thy overflowing bounty.

So sheds the glorious sun his beams ; and freely scatters them on every side :

Gilding all the world with his beauteous light ; and kindly cherishing it, with his fruitful heat :

And so dost thou, and infinitely more ; O thou God of infinite more perfections !

So, we confess, thou dost to us : but, alas ! what return have we made to thee ?

Have

MONDAY MORNING. 33

Have we consider'd well, the end of our being; and faithfully comply'd with thy purpose to save us ?

Ah, wretched we ! we shamefully neglect thy holy rules ; and govern our actions, by chance, and humour :

We foolishly forget the God that made us ; and fill our heads with thoughts that undo us.

Pardon, O gracious Lord, my past ingratitude, and mercifully direct my time to come.

Teach every passage of my yet remaining life, to express an acknowledgment fit for thy mercies :

O make my senses subject to my reason ; and my reason entirely obedient to thee :

O make the whole creation conspire to thy honour ; and all that depend on thee, join together in thy praise.

This is the only praise thou expectest from us ; this the sole honour thou requirest of thy creatures :

That by observing the orders, thou appointest here ; in this lower region of change and motion :

We may all grow up to be happy hereafter, in a state of permanency, and eternal rest.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

PSALM XI.

LET me now consider, O Lord my God!
let me thankfully remember what thou
art to us :

Thou art the great Beginning of our nature ; and glorious End of our actions :

Thou art the overflowing Source from whence we spring ; and the immense Ocean, into which we tend :

Thou art the free Bestower of all we possess ; and faithful Promiser of all we hope :

Thou art the strong Inheritance of our lives ; and ready Deliverer from all our enemies :

Thou art the merciful Scourger of our sins ; and bounteous Rewarder of our obedience :

Thou art the same Conductor of our pilgrimage ; and the eternal Rest of our wearied souls.

Such words, alas ! our narrowness is constrain'd to use, when we endeavour to declare thy bounties :

Wider a little can our thoughts extend ; yet infinitely less, than the least of thy mercies :

Tell

MONDAY EVENING. 35

Tell us, thyself; (since one word of thine exceeds the eloquence of men and angels)

Tell us, thou mild Instructor of the ignorant; tell us thyself, what thou art to us:

Say to our souls, Thou art our salvation; but say it so, that we may hear thee:

Gladly will we pursue the pleasing voice; and hope by following it, to find out thee:

When we have found thee once, O thou Joy of our hearts! never let us lose thy sight again:

Never let us turn our eyes from thee; but steadily fix them, on thy glorious face:

Suffer us not to go till thou hast given us thy blessing; and then may thy blessing bind us faster to thee!

Glory be to the Father, &c.

P S A L M XII.

LET me now consider, O Lord my God! let me humbly remember, what we are to thee:

We who, alas! are nothing in ourselves; what can we be to thy immensity?

Thou, who art all things in thy own rich Self; what can'st thou receive from our poverty?

This only we are to thee, O great Creator! the unthankful objects of all thy bounties:

36 MONDAY EVENING.

This only we are to thee, O dear Redeemer! The unworthy cause of all thy sufferings :

Guilty *we* committed the crime; and *thou* with thy innocence undertook'st the punishment.

We went astray from the path of life ; and thy mercy came down from heaven to seek us :

To seek us in the wilderness, where we had lost ourselves ; and bring us home to the discipline of thy love.

Lord ! what are we ? that thou should'st so regard such poor, and vile, and inconsiderable wretches !

What can our good-will avail thy bliss ; that with so many charms thou woo'st us to love thee :

What can our malice prejudice thy content ; that thou threatenest so severely, if we love thee not !

Is there not, O my God, felicity enough in the sweetness alone of loving thee ?

Is there perhaps not misery enough in living depriv'd of thy blissful love ?

Yes, yes, dear Lord, and that thou knew'st; and that mov'd thy goodness to court our affections :

Thou knew'st, we else should cast away ourselves, by doating on the follies of this deceitful world :

Thou

MONDAY EVENING. 37

Thou knew'st the danger of our wilful nature ; and therefore seek'st by the greatest fears, and greatest hopes :

And all the wisest arts of love, and bounty, to draw us to thyself, and endow us with thy kingdom.

Unhappy we ! whose forwardness requir'd so strange proceedings, to force upon us our own salvation.

Happy we ! whose wants have met so kind a hand : that needed but our emptiness, to engage him to fill us.

Happy yet more ! that our Lord, who thus favours us now, will at last, give us his very Self.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XIII.

LORD ! without thee, what's all the world to us, but a flying dream of busy vanities !

It promises indeed a paradise of bliss ; but all it performs, is an empty cloud :

Thine are the joys, that shine fixt as the stars ; and make the only solid heaven.

Lord ! without thee, what are we to ourselves, but the wretched causes of our own ruin ?

We,

38 MONDAY EVENING.

We, till thou gav'st us being, were purely nothing ; more remov'd from happiness, than the meanest of thy creatures :

And now thou hast made us, we wholly depend on thee ; and perish immediately if thou forsake us.

Thou, without us, art the same all-glorious Essence ; full of thy own eternal felicity.

Without us thy royal throne stands firm for ever ; and all the powers of heav'n obey thy pleasure.

Pity, O gracious Lord, our imperfect nature ; whose every circumstance is so contrary to thine.

Thou dwell'st above, in the mansions of glory ; and we below, in houses of clay :

Thou art immortal, and thy day outlives all time ; we every moment, go downwards to the grave :

Thou art immense, and thy presence fills the heav'ns ; but the greatest of us, alas ! how little are we !

Two yards of air contain us while we live ; and a few spans of earth, suffice us at our death.

When, O my God, shall these distances meet together ? when will these extremities embrace each other ?

We know they were once miraculously join'd, in the sacred person of thy eternal Son :

When

MONDAY EVENING. 39

When the king of heav'n stoop'd down
to earth ; and grafted into his own person,
the nature of man.

We hope, they once again shall be happily
united, in the blisful vision of thy glorious
Self ;

When the children of earth, shall be ex-
alted to heav'n ; and made partakers of thy
divine nature.

But are there no means for us here below ?
O thou infinitely high, and glorious God !

Is there no way to approach towards thee ;
and diminish, at least, this uncomfortable
distance ?

None, but the way of holy love ; which
none can attain, but by thy free gift :

Nor must we sinners dare to ask thy love ;
being infinitely unworthy to be called thy
servants :

Rather, let us beg the grace to love thee
who art so many ways worthy, of more than
our hearts :

And yet, O dearest Lord, unless thou
first love us ; and sweetly draw us, by thy
gentle hand :

Never shall we be so happy, as to love
thee ; nor ever happy, unless we love thee :

O bounteous God ! to all thy favours, add
this one, of making us esteem thee, above
them all :

Be thou, to us our God, and all things ;
and make us nothing in our own eyes :

Be

40 TUESDAY MORNING.

Be thou, our whole, and everlasting delight ; and let nothing else, be any thing to us.

Glory be to the Father, &c.



TUESDAY MORNING.

PSALM XIV.



O T unto us, O Lord, not unto us ; but to thy own blest name, be all the glory.

When we have applied our utmost care ; and used all the diligence that lies in our power :

What can we do, but look up to thee ; and second our endeavours, with prayers for thy blessing ?

When we have implored thy gracious mercy ; and pleaded the merits of thy Son to obtain it :

What can we do, but submit our hopes ; and expect the event from thy free goodness ?

We know, for thou thyself has taught us ; that unless thou keep'st the city, the watchman waketh but in vain :

We

TUESDAY MORNING. 41

We know, and our experience confirms the truth ; unless thou reachest forth thy hand, we are in danger of sinking.

Every moment of our day subsists by thee ; and every step we take, moves by thy strength.

Even the line I now repeat, must beg its breath of thee ; and stop if thou deny'st it :

If thou deny'st, who can compel thy will : or call in question thy decrees ?

Are we not all thy creatures, O gracious God ! and as helpless babes, at the breast of thy providence ?

Are we not all as clay in thy hands ? to frame us into vessels of what use thou pleasest ?

Behold, we confess, O Lord, in thee we live ; in thee we move, and have our being :

All our sufficiency proceeds from thee ; and all our success depends on thy favour.

Others, may tell us the way we should go ; but thou alone, canst enable us to walk :

Others, may kindly direct us in the way ; but even they themselves must be taught by thee :

They must be mov'd by thee, to act that charity ; and so All at last, is resolv'd into thee.

Should

42 TUESDAY MORNING.

Should we presume, O Lord, to divide thy grace; and proudly challenge any share to ourselves:

Thy mighty truth stands up against us; and our own infirmities plainly confute us.

Should'st thou severely examine our hearts; and ask, who works all their actions in them:

Sure we must need bow down our heads; and lowly from the dust reply:

Nothing are we, O Lord, but what thou hast made us; nothing have we, but what thou hast given us:

Only our sins are entirely our own; which, O may thy grace extinguish for ever.

O may all self-presumption die in us; and our whole confidence live only in thee:

May even our frailties make us more strong; and our very nothing teach us to be humble:

So shall thy power, O God, be magnified in our weakness; and thy mercy triumph in relief of our misery.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

P S A L M XV.

THUS we depend, and happy we in this dependence; did we but know our own true interest.

We

TUESDAY MORNING. 43

We and our whole concerns are deposited with God ; and where can we find a better hand to insure them ?

Is he not wise enough to chuse safely for us ; who disposes all nature, in such admirable order ?

Has he not power to go through with his purpose ; who commands the wills of men and angels ?

Wants he the least inclination to favour us ; who desires our felicity, more than we do ourselves ?

He feeds the fowls of the air ; and clothes the lilies of the field :

Without his providence, not a sparrow falls to the ground ; and shall we mistrust his care for his children ?

Under his government, we have liv'd all this while ; and can we suspect that he'll now forsake us ?

He hath shewn his bounty in extraordinary graces ; and will he deny us his lesser blessings ?

He hath freely bestowed on us, his dearest Son ; how shall he not with him, freely give us all things else ?

All that are truly useful to carry us on our way ; and bring us at length to his eternal rest.

If our necessities be the effects of our folly ; we must not presume he'll maintain us in our sins :

Rather,

44 TUESDAY MORNING.

Rather, we should strive to moderate our appetites ; and correct the vices, that have bred these miseries :

But, if our wants be innocent and pressing ; he'll sooner do a miracle than break his word :

His word, which so often, he hath solemnly engaged ; so often proved by a thousand experiments.

Ask, but the former ages, and they will tell you ; the wonders that he wrought, in favour of his servants :

He multiplied the oil, in the poor widow's cruse ; and fed his prophet by the service of a raven.

He dry'd the sea, into a path, for his people ; and melted the rocks to refresh their thirst.

He made his angels, stewards of their provision ; and nourish'd them in the wilderness with the bread of heav'n.

Still, O my God, thy eternal charity is the same, to such, as rely on thy mercy :

Still, thy all-seeing providence governs the world ; with the same immense, unalterable goodness :

Nay, surely now, the streams of thy mercy run more strong ; and have wrought to themselves, a larger channel :

Since

TUESDAY MORNING. 45

Since thou hast brought down the waters from above the heav'n ; and hast open'd in thy Son's body, a spring of life :

A spring of joy, to revive our hearts ; and o'erflow them with a torrent of everlasting pleasures.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

P S A L M XVI.

LET us then sit down in peace, O my soul ! and rest secure in the bosom of Providence.

Let us not disturb the order of those mercies, which our God has design'd us, in his eternal counsels.

Every accident, may be turn'd into virtue : and every virtue, is a step to our glorious end.

If our affairs succeed, let us praise our great Benefactor ; and think what he'll give us hereafter, who so favours us here.

If they miscarry, let us yield to the will of heav'n, and learn by our crosses in this world, to betake us to a better.

Whatever happens, let this be our constant rule ; to provide for the future life, and be contented with the present.

Shall we not patiently accept a little evil, from him that has given us so much good ?

Shall

46 TUESDAY MORNING.

Shall the being without some one thing, we need not ; more sensibly affect us, than the having all we need ?

Ingrateful we ! the common benefits we all enjoy, deserve the thanksgiving of a whole life :

The air, we breathe in, and the sun that enlightens us ; the water, and the earth, that so faithfully serve us :

The exercise of our senses, and the use of our wits, if not in excellence, at least, to some degree :

All these, thou kindly givest to the good and bad ; and for the least of these, none can praise thee enough.

What shall we say to those high, supernatural blessings ; a Son of God to redeem us ; and a heav'n to reward us ?

What shall we say ? can we yet complain, because some few, perhaps, are more prosperous than we !

Should we not rather look down, on the many below us ; and be thankful, to see ourselves more favour'd than they ?

Should we not reckon o'er the miseries of mankind ; and bless our God that hath so far preserv'd us !

Had we some desperate canker breeding in our face ; or noisome leprosy spreading o'er our skin :

(These,

TUESDAY MORNING. 47

(These, we must all confess, are incident to our nature ; and more than these due to our sins.)

What would we give, to be as now we are ? how gladly change, for a moderate affliction !

'Tis but interpreting our worst condition well ; to find enough, for our gratitude to God :

'Tis but interpreting our best condition frowardly ; and find defects enough, to make ourselves miserable.

Did we adore, as we ought, the wisdom of our God ; we should easily trust him, to govern his creatures.

Could we understand, the secret character of his decrees ; we should read in each syllable, a perfect harmony.

Teach us, O thou best Enlightner of our minds ! to expound thy actions in a fair sense.

Suffer us not to follow our private spirit ; lest we create to ourselves, a voluntary misery.

Still, let us construe the afflictions thou send'st us, as meant to correct, and not to destroy us.

To prevent some sin, or practise some virtue ; and when we need our crosses no longer, thou'lt take them away.

Mean while, O gracious Lord, teach me to wait thy time ; and not impatiently prescribe limits to thee.

Make

48 TUESDAY EVENING.

Make me rejoice, that my lot is in thy hands ; but, O let thy mercy chuse favourably for me :

Dispose me, as thou pleasest, my condition here ; only, my portion hereafter, let it be with thy blessed.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

PSALM XVII.

BE thou eternally ador'd, O God of our salvation ; and may thy praises be sung, for ever, by thy servants :

When our first parents had disobey'd thy precepts ; to the ruin of themselves, and their whole posterity :

Thy mercy immediately provided a remedy ; and graciously promised, a powerful Redeemer :

A Redeemer, that should conquer sin, and death ; and crush in pieces, the serpent's head :

A Redeemer, that should repair the breaches of mankind ; and fully restore us to the divine favour :

Should enlighten our eyes, with a clearer view, of those excellent truths, that belong to our peace ;

And

TUESDAY EVENING. 49

And support our nature, with a stronger grace, to bear us on safely, thro' all rencounters :

Till we naturally arrive at the land of rest; and be received for ever into his glorious kingdom.

O blessed Jesu ! our Strength, our Guide ! who knowest, and pitiest our weak capacities :

Who, in thy tender care, hast ordain'd such means, that nothing can undo us, but our own perverseness :

How easy hast thou made the way to heaven ! how light is the burden, thou lay'st on thy followers !

'Tis, but to love thee, our greatest Benefactor ; and we perfectly love every branch of thy law :

'Tis, but desiring to see thee, our supreme Beatitude ; and we are sure to possess, an eternity of joy.

Blessed, O my God, be the wisdom of thy Providence ; which alone knows the way, to bring good out of evil :

Which not only restores us to our first degree ; but, makes our very fall, rebound us to a greater height :

Lord, as thy goodness turns all things, to the good of thy elect : O may the elect, in all things, praise thy goodness.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XVIII.

ADmirable wert thou, O Lord, in thy merciful promise ; but infinitely more in thy wonderful performance.

Thou didst not depute an angel, to supply thy place ; nor commit so tender a work, to the management of a seraphim.

But, thou didst bow the heav'ns, and come down thyself ; and with thy own blest hands, work our redemption.

Thyself didst take upon thee, our frail nature ; and vouchsafe to be born of an humble virgin.

Thou, didst submit to the weaknesses of a child ; whose parents were poor, and unesteemed in the world.

Thou disdain'dst not the mean entertainment of a stable ; O, how unfit for the birth of the King of heaven !

Thou didst content thyself, with a manger, for a cradle ; and the uneasy lodging on a bed of straw :

Didst refuse the soft accommodations of the rich ; to undergo the inconveniencies of a poor stranger :

Only, the faithful *Joseph* stood waiting on thee ; and provided, as he was able, for his helpless family :

Only

TUESDAY EVENING. 51

Only thy pious mother, dearly embrac'd thee; and wrapt in swaddling cloaths, thy tender limbs.

Wonder, O heavens! and be amazed, O earth! and all ye creatures, humbly bow your heads:

Bow, and adore, this incomprehensible mystery: the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us:

But, most of all, we, who are most concern'd; the banished children of apostate Adam:

Let us bow down our faces to the dust; and, prostrate, adore so unspeakable a mercy.

Behold, thus low my Saviour stooped for me; to check the pride of my corrupted nature;

Behold, thus low he stooped, to take me from the ground; and raise me to the joys, of his heavenly kingdom.

Lift up thy voice with joy, O my Soul; and sing *Hosanna*, to the new-born Jesus.

Call all the blessed angels, to celebrate his birth; and repeat afresh that heavenly anthem,

Glory be to God on high, on earth peace, good-will towards men.

Lift up thy voice aloud, O my soul; and to the choirs of heav'n, join the praises of the church.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

C 2

PSALM

PSALM XIX.

REjoice, all ye faithful nations of the earth
when you hear the sweet name of your
dear Redeemer.

Rejoice, and with bended knees and grate-
ful hearts, adore the ever-blessed Jesus.

He is the Son of the ever-living God,
equally participating the Glory of his Father.

He is that great Messiah whom the pro-
phets foretold: and all the antient saints
long expected.

At length, in the fulness of time, he came
to visit in person this miserable world:

He came with his hands full of miracles,
and every miracle full of mercy:

He made the crooked become strait; and
the lame to walk and leap for joy:

He open'd the ears of the deaf to hear,
and gave sight to them that were born
blind:

He loosen'd the tongues of the dumb to
speak: O may he govern ours to sing his
praise!

He cleans'd the leprous, by the word of
his mouth; and healed their diseases, who
but touched his garment:

To the poor he reveal'd the treasures of
his gospel; and taught the simple, the myste-
ries of his kingdom:

TUESDAY EVENING. 53

He cast out devils by the command of his will : and forced them to confess, and adore his person :

He rais'd the dead from the grave, to life ; *Lazarus*, that was dead, and saw corruption :

Nay, ev'n himself (being sacrific'd on the cross, and his tomb made fast, and secured with a guard)

He rais'd again, by his own victorious power ; and carry'd up our nature into the highest heav'ns.

All these stupendous works, O glorious Jesu ! were done by the hand of thy almighty mercy :

To witness thy truth, with the seal of heav'n ; and endear thy precepts with obliging miracles :

That thus engag'd, we might believe in thee ; and obeying thy law, be eternally sav'd.

O let not all this love, dear Lord, be lost ; by so many tokens so kindly exprest :

One miracle more, I humbly beg ; but one as wonderful as any of the rest :

Soften my stony heart into a tender sense of thy great goodness, and my own true duty :

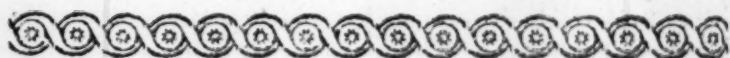
Raise my dead spirits from this heavy earth, to dwell with thee in the land of the living ;

54 WEDNESDAY MORNING.

That as here, I admire thy bounteous power ; and daily sing the wonders of thy Grace :

I may hereafter adore thy blessed Self ; and eternally sing the wonders of thy Glory.

Glory be to the Father, &c.



WEDNESDAY MORNING.

PSALM XX.



PEAK no more proudly, vain dust, and ashes ; nor provoke any longer the living God.

Seal up thy lips in humble silence ; and tremblingly remember his dreadful judgments.

Remember how the earth open'd itself ; and swallowed up alive so many thousands.

Remember how the clouds rain'd fire and brimstone ; and buried whole cities in their own ashes.

Remember how the general deluge o'er-spread the world ; and swept away almost all mankind.

Remember, and ask the cause of all this ruin ; and tell it aloud, to the bold offender :

Tell

WEDNESDAY MORNING. 55

Tell him, 'twas sin, and such as his, that drew upon them so swift destruction.

Sin threw the Angels down from heav'n; and reserves them for chains of eternal darkness :

Sin banish'd *Adam* out of paradise; and turn'd that delicious garden into a field of weeds.

O God! how terrible is thy mighty arm; when thou stretchest it out, to be aveng'd of thine enemies!

O sin! how fatal is thy desperate malice; that pulls on our heads, all the thunder of heav'n!

O my soul, how dull and senseless are we, to sleep secure, as if all were safe!

Can we repeat these amazing truths! and not tremble at the strokes of divine justice?

Can we consider the deplorable end of sinners; and still go on in the ways of sin?

Even while we sing thy praises, O God, with our purest affections; the sense of our unworthiness should make us afraid.

How then must we be confounded when our sins reproach us; and a guilty conscience looks us in the face?

Strike thou our hearts, O thou infinite Majesty! with an awful reverence of thy great Name.

Correct our many levities, into a pious sadness; and break our proud spirits, to bow to thee:

56 WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Still may our consciences cry aloud within us, Dare you commit this evil and sin against God?

Dare you commit this evil, and undo yourselves? and plunge your souls into everlasting torments?

Forbid so mad a rashness, gracious Lord! and make thy judgments on others, mercies to us.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XXI.

WIPE away the tears from thine eyes,
O my soul; and clear thy heart from
all clouds of despair.

He that is infinite in power to punish; is
full as infinite in goodness to save.

How often have we broken his divine
commands; and yet his earth, sustains and
keeps us!

How often have we abus'd our fulness of
bread; yet still his clouds shower plenty up-
on us!

With his almighty word, he confined the
waters; and sharply reprov'd their officious-
ness to destroy:

Hitherto shall ye come, and no farther!
and here, shall your proud waves, be stay'd.

Only

WEDNESDAY MORNING. 57

Only the ambitious angels find no forgiveness ; because they obstinately refuse to seek it :

Else, could those rebel spirits confess their crimes ; and turn again, to obey their Maker,

His clemency, would soon revoke their sentence ; and raise them to shine, in their first bright seats.

But O ! th' excess of mercy vouchsaf'd to *Adam* ; and to us dust and ashes, his posterity !

For whom the sovereign King of heav'n, humbled himself to descend upon earth ;

Leading a poor, laborious life ; and suffering a painful, ignominious death :

Only to teach us how to live, and how to die ; that both living and dying, we might be his.

Thy mercies, Lord, are above all thy works ; and this above all thy mercies.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XXII.

STILL, let us sing the mercies of our God ; and hold a little longer on this sweet key.

When we, alas ! lay buried in the abyss of nothing ; his own free goodness, first call'd us into being.

58 WEDNESDAY MORNING.

He fashion'd our limbs, in our mother's womb; and filled our nurse's breast with milk:

He enlarged our little steps, when we began to go; and carefully preserved our helpless infancy:

Commanding even his angels, to bear us in their hands, lest we dash our feet against a stone.

How many dangers have we happily escap'd; and not one of them, but was govern'd by his Providence!

How many blessings do we daily receive; and not one of them, but proceeds from his bounty!

He provided tutors to instruct our youth; and plant in our tender minds the seeds of virtue.

He appointed pastors to feed our souls; and safely guide them in the ways of bliss:

He founded his church on an immovable rock; to render our faith, firm and secure:

He seal'd his love, with sacraments of grace; to breed and nourish in us the life of charity.

All this, thou hast done, O merciful Lord! The wise disposer of heav'n and earth.

All this thou hast done, and still goest on, by infinite ways, to gain us to thy love.

Thou

WEDNESDAY MORNING. 59

Thou command'st us to ask, and promisest to grant ; thou invitest us to seek, and assure'st us to find.

Thou vouchsaf'st, even thyself, to stand at the door and knock ; and if we open, thou enter'st in, to fill our hearts with joy.

If we forget thee, thou renew'st afresh our memory ; if we fly from thee, thou still find'st some means to recall us.

If we defer our amendment, thou patiently waitest for us ; and when we return, thou open'st thy arms to embrace us.

Surely, O my God, from all eternity, thou hast cast thy gracious eye upon us.

Surely, thy merciful hand has sign'd our lot ; and marked us out for thy everlasting favours.

We know thy ways are in the deep abyfs ; and none can sound the bottom of thy counsels :

Yet may we safely look on the flowing streams ; and gather this comfort from their gentle course :

When we were not, thou didst freely love us ; thou wilt not forsake us, now that we strive to love thee :

When we had lost our way, thou sought'st after us ; thou wilt not refuse us, now we seek after thee.

Lord, all that we have, is derived from thee ; and all that we expect, comes from none, but thee :

60 WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Accomplish thine one blest'd purpose in us; and finish these happy beginnings toward us:

For we greatly hope thou wilt bring us to thy glory; since already, thou hast, so kindly dispos'd us by thy grace.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

PSALM XXIII.

WHY do ye laugh, unhappy wretches, who tire yourselves in the ways of sin?

Ways, that indeed seem smooth at first; but lead to danger, and end in ruin.

Why do you boast your pleasant life, who lie asleep in the arms of death?

Awake, and chase the dream away; that deludes your sick heads with empty fancies.

Awake, and fill your eyes with tears; and sadly look on your real miseries:

Whither, alas! will your poor souls be hurry'd; when in cold despair you sigh away your last faint breath?

They shall fly amaz'd from the sight of heav'n, and hide their guilty selves, in eternal darkness.

Their

WEDNESDAY EVENING. 61

Their understanding shall sit as in a deep dungeon ; and think on nothing but its own calamities :

The will shall be heighten'd to a madness of desire ; and be perpetually rack'd with the despair of obtaining :

Their memory shall serve, but to renew their sorrows ; and their whole souls be drown'd in a sea of bitterness :

They shall wish the mountains to fall upon them, and cry to the hills to cover them ;

But nothing shall fall on them but the wrath of God ; nor cover them but their own confusion.

But, Oh, what dreadful pangs, shall seize them all, and wound, and pierce the very centre of their souls !

When, they shall see themselves eternally depriv'd, of the bright, and blissful vision of God :

When, they shall see themselves eternally banish'd, from the sweet, and gracious presence of Jesus ;

The God who made them, to enjoy his glory ; that Jesus who redeemed them, to be heirs of his felicity.

Then, shall they curse the day of their birth ; and th' unfortunate companions, that inveigled them to sin :

They shall curse this vain deceitful world ; and cry out with a desperate, enrag'd fury :

Are

62 WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Are these the effects of those fond desires; whose enjoyment we made our chief felicity?

Alas! what avail us, now, our wanton liberties; and the fugitive pleasures, we so eagerly pursu'd?

What comfort receive we, from those empty honours, and faithless riches, we so highly esteemed?

They are all vanish'd away, like a shadow; and as a cloud of smoke, that's scattered with the wind:

But, the remorse, and punishment endure for ever; and torture our spirits, with perpetual anguish.

Thus shall they cry, and none incline to hear them; thus shall they mourn, and none be found to pity them.

O sad expectance of a dissolute life! O dreadful consequence of an impenitent death!

Eternally to long, for what they never can enjoy; eternally to suffer, what they never can avoid.

Blessed be thy gracious providence, O God; that with such tender care, forewarns us of our dangers.

O save us too, dear Lord, from all those dangers! O save us, for thy mercies sake!

Save us, and make us fearful to do, what when we have done, will make us miserable for ever.

Quicken

WEDNESDAY EVENING. 63

Quicken our apprehensions of the ruinous effects of sin; and with thy terrible threatenings check our unbridled passions:

That if thy glorious promises move not our hearts; the dread of thy judgments may awe us to obedience.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

P S A L M XXIV.

WH Y do ye mourn, ye children of light;
to whom belong the promises of bliss?

Who feed on the pleasant fruits of piety;
and the continual feast of a good conscience!

Who taste already the sweetness of hope;
and hereafter shall be satisfied with the fulness of fruition.

What can molest your happy state; whom
the God of Glory hath chosen for himself?

Whom he has adopted into his own family;
and designed for heirs of the kingdom of heav'n:

That blessed kingdom, where all delights
abound; and sorrows and tears are banished away.

Where none are sick, or grow old, or die;
but flourish in health and youth, and immortal life:

Where none are perplexed with cares or fears;
but dwell secure, and free for ever;

Where,

64 WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Where, we shall no more be subject to chance ; no more expos'd to the danger of temptations ;

Where, we shall no more be cross'd by others ; no more disquieted by our own passions :

But a serene tranquillity perpetually within us ; and innumerable joys, all round about us :

Joy, in the excellencies of our glorified bodies ; joy, in the perfections of our enlarged souls :

Joy, in the sweet society of saints ; joy, in the glorious company of angels :

Joy, in the ravishing sight of our beloved Jesus ; joy, in the blissful union with the adored Deity :

All shall be joy, and love and peace ; and all endure for eternal ages.

Let then the impenitent sinner be frightened with fear ; and the obdurate heart break asunder with grief :

But, for the hopeful innocent, let them always be glad ; and the servants of Jesus, rejoice and sing :

Sweet is the yoke of thy love, O Lord ; and light the burden of thy commands :

But, Oh, how far more rich are thy faithful promises ! how infinitely greater thy glorious rewards !

When

WEDNESDAY EVENING. 65

When every virtue shall wear its proper crown ; and shine with a diadem, well fitted to its head :

The humble there, shall be highly exalted ; and the poor in spirit, preferr'd to be kings :

The meek shall possess that holy land ; and the mourners be comforted with eternal refreshments :

The clean of heart, shall see the God of purity ; and the lovers of peace, have the privilege of his children :

They who hunger and thirst after heav'n, shall be fill'd ; and the merciful entertain'd with th' embraces of mercy :

They, who suffer persecution, shall be abundantly rewarded ; and the enlightners of others, shine bright as the stars :

They, who relinquish any thing for God, shall have an hundredfold ; and all the just, be in glory for ever :

Then shall they bless the true friend that reprov'd them ; and the charitable hand that assisted to their happiness :

They shall bless the provident mercies of their God ; and sing aloud, the victories of his grace :

Is this the effect of those little pains we took ? Are these the repairs, for those petty losses we suffered ?

Happy we ! who deny'd ourselves toys ; and now are advanced to these high felicities :

Mil-

66 WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Millions of years shall pass away ; and
our glory shall then but seem to begin :

Millions of millions shall pass away ; and
our glory shall be no nearer its end :

Thus, shall they all rejoice, and none dis-
turb them ; thus, shall they sing, and all the
heav'ns join with them.

O sweet expectance of a pious life ! O
happy consequence of a happy death !

Eternally to be free from whatever can
afflict ; eternally to enjoy whatever can de-
light !

Bless'd be thy gracious providence, O
God ; that with so large a bounty woo's us
to our happiness :

Woo's us in a way we are so apt to be
taken ; the love of ourselves, and our own
great interest.

As thou hast prepar'd such felicities for
us ; O may thy grace prepare us for them :

O may this best of works take up all our
time ; at least, take up the best of our time :

At least, every morning, let us renew our
hope ; and close the evening with the same
sweet thoughts.

Let us not faint, and we shall surely see,
a prosperous issue of all our sorrows ;

Still let us labour, still let us suffer ; our
troubles are short and our joys eternal.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM

PSALM XXV.

COME, now, my soul, and chuse; for
life and death are set before thee:

Chuse, while thy gracious Lord allows
thee day; lest the night of darkness over-
takes thy neglect:

Chuse; but remember, thy eternity is
concern'd; and examine well, ere thou
mak'st thy resolve:

Call all the pleasures of the world before
thee; and ask, if any of them be worth such
pains?

Ask, if to satisfy some irregular passion,
can recompense the forfeiture, of such feli-
cities?

Ask, if the vain forbidden things, thou
lov'st; deserve thy affection, better than thy
Maker?

Are they more worthy in themselves, or
beneficial to thee; that thou canst prefer
them to thy Redeemer?

Dost thou expect to be quiet, by enjoying
them; or everlastingly happy by their pro-
curement?

Will they protect thee at the hour of
death; or plead thy cause at the day of
judgment?

O no, they deceive me with a smiling
look, which, too often, I have proved by
dear experience:

'Tis

68 WEDNESDAY EVENING.

'Tis heav'n alone, that yields a true content ; 'tis heav'n alone that fills us with delight.

Take then away your flatteries, false world ; and leave me free for better thoughts.

Turn thou thy face to me, dear Jesu, and keep mine eyes still turn'd towards thee.

That I may look continually on thy glorious beauties ; and be ravish'd for ever, with the charms of thy sweetness :

'Tis thee, chaste Spouse of souls ; 'tis thee alone, I chuse ; and dedicate myself intirely to thy service :

Thou art my sole and absolute Lord ; be thou my part and inheritance for ever.

But, O my dearest Lord, do thou chuse me ; and guide my uninstructed soul to chuse thee :

O make me chuse to love thee, till I come to see thee ! and then, I am sure, I cannot chuse but love thee.

Here we, alas ! move slowly in the dark ; led on by the argument of things not seen :

But, did we clearly see, what, we say, we believe ; we soon should change the course of our lives :

Did we but see the damned in their flames ; on hear them cry, in the midst of their torments :

How should we fear to follow them in their sins, which we know, do plunge them into all those miseries !

How

WEDNESDAY EVENING. 69

How should we strive against the next temptation; and cast about to avoid the danger!

Did we but see the glories of the saints; or hear the sweet hymns they continually sing:

How should we study to imitate their lives; which we know, have rais'd them to all their happiness!

How, should we seek, all occasions of improvement; and make it our business, to work out our salvation!

Nay, did our faith but firmly believe, the truths we daily recite in our creed:

What would we do to obtain those joys! what would we not do to escape those sorrows!

Would half an hour be too long to pray? or once a week too often to fast?

Would the pardon of an injury, be too hard a law? or the making restitution, too dear a price?

Durst we return to our sins again? or spend our time in idleness and folly?

Yet is all this, as sure, as if we saw it; and would move as much, if we seriously consider'd it.

If we consider'd, what I'm sure we believe; we should never live, as I'm sure we do.

Which of us doubts, but ere long, we shall be dust; yet, which of us lives, as if we thought to die?

Pity

70 WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Pity, O gracious Lord, the frailties of thy servants; and suffer not our blindness to lead us into ruin.

Supply our want of sight, by a lively faith; and strengthen our faith by thy powerful grace.

Make us remember, 'tis no childrens sport, to gain or lose the kingdom of heav'n.

Make us chuse wisely, and pursue our choice; and use as well the means, as like the end.

O set thou right the bias of our hearts; that in all our motions we may draw off from the world.

That we may still incline towards thee; and rest, at last, in thy holy presence.

Thou art our Lord, and we will serve thee in fear; thou art our God, and we will love thee in hope.

Glory be to the Father, &c.



THURSDAY



THURSDAY MORNING.

PSALM XXVI.



ORD, how seure and quiet
they live, whom thy grace pre-
serves in innocence!

The day goes smoothly over
their heads; and silent as the
shadow of a dial.

The spirits of their fancy run calm and
even; and ebb and flow in obedience to
reason.

Their chief delight is to think on heav'n;
and reckon o'er the joys they shall one day
possess:

Till some unruly passion presseth to come
in; and by its fawning outside, gains ad-
mittance.

It promises, at first, all joy, all happiness;
but soon discovers its pernicious intent.

Soon it grows bold to undermine their
repose; and opens a door to all their ene-
mies:

So, at a little breach of the city wall, a
whole army pours in their numerous body:

En-

72 THURSDAY MORNING.

Enslaving all that submit to their violence; and destroying all, that make head to resist 'em:

And such, alas! is their confusion, when once they have yielded to the first assault:

Immediately a throng of tumultuous spirits croud into their heads; and utterly consume the little remnant of their peace.

O the distraction of a life led by humour; and the miserable thralldom of being subject to our passions!

How often do they engage us to contend with others; and imbitter all our days with strife and envy!

How often do they quarrel, even among themselves; and raise a war in our own bosoms!

If they by chance agree in one desire; they many times vex us with their being disappointed:

If they, perhaps, some time succeed; they seldom produce the expected content:

If they delight our corrupted taste; and we greedily swallow their unwholesome sweetness:

Then 'tis, alas! they most of all undo us; by feeding the humour of our fatal disease:

Vain, at the best, and short, are the enjoyments of this world; and after a little flattery, betray us into ruin.

Save

THURSDAY MORNING. 73

Save us, O blessed Jesu, or else we perish ;
awake, and with thy speedy mercy rescue
thy servants.

Send down thy powerful grace to sustain
our part ; and thoroughly reduce these un-
quiet disorders :

That we may return again to our former
rest ; and constantly enjoy an universal
peace :

Peace with the bad, by bearing their in-
juries ; and with the good, by conforming
to their virtues :

Peace with ourselves, by subduing sense
to reason ; and with thee, by improving
reason with religion.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XXVII.

THUS are they miserably tofs'd up and
down, who float on the waves of their
own passions :

Their wearied souls soon faint within
them ; when they see their Lord has with-
drawn his presence :

They seek him, but cannot find him ;
they call, but he gives them no answer.

O, still seek on, still call on your God ;
for his mercy will surely awake at last :

Tho' he sometimes may slumber for a
while, to try your duty, or punish your dis-
obedience :

D

Tho'

74 THURSDAY MORNING.

Tho' he may suffer a while, the fury of the tempest, to shew you your hopeless state, if left to yourselves :

Yet be assur'd, he'll hear your prayers at last ; he'll not permit you to perish for ever.

And now, when all their fears were grown to the height ; and no means appear'd to sustain their patience :

When the proud waves beat violently against them ; and cover'd their little vessel with despair and ruin :

Behold, his blessed voice commands a calm ; and immediately the winds and the sea obey him :

Immediately his sun arises in their hearts ; and with its gentle beams revives their hopes :

Then is their darkness turn'd into light ; and the clouds dispers'd into a bright day :

Then, they recollect their scatter'd thoughts ; and range them again in their ancient order :

Often they look back on the dangers they have escap'd ; and often bless the mercy that deliver'd them :

Often they look forward on the course they are going ; and as often sing with joy, for their happy change.

Welcome again, the easy yoke of Christ ; and the light burden of loving our Saviour :

Welcome the holy offices of sweet devotion ; and that soul-inflaming silent prayer.

Now

THURSDAY MORNING. 75

Now we discern this beauteous truth; and
O! may we print it deeply in our minds:

That all the pleasures of virtue are pure
and constant; and infinite blessings attend to
reward it:

But the pursuit of vice is troublesome and
intricate; and finishes its course in an abyss
of misery.

Pity, O Lord, thou raiser of them that
fall; and sole sustainer of them that stand!

Pity thy childrens weakness, who look up
to thee; and dearly know, we are nothing
in ourselves.

Let us not lose this unhappy experience;
but teach us wisdom from our own miscar-
riage:

Teach us to observe where our error was;
and fortify ourselves against that defect:

To suppress our temptations in their first
approach; when their power is weak, and
our choice in full strength:

To remember how formerly their flatteries
have abus'd us; and when they counterfeit
again, be no more deceived:

Never to look on the face of pleasures, as
they come dress'd up and smiling tow'rds us.

But always reflect, how sadly they go off;
and leave nothing behind but their venom-
ous sting.

So shall we gain the best of victories;
while we master our own corrupt inclina-
tions:

76 THURSDAY MORNING.

So shall we be honoured with the noblest of triumphs; while our conquer'd passions draw us up to heav'n.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

P S A L M XXVIII.

LORD, as thy all-wise providence seems to sleep sometimes, and permit the storm to grow high and loud;

Yet never fail'st to relieve thy servants, who call faithfully on thee, in their day of trouble:

So let thy favourable hand still bear us up, when thou seest us charg'd with any strong assault:

Leave us not then to our own infirmities; lest the enemy of our souls prevail against us:

For sake not our misery when we are fall'n; lest we lie for ever groveling on the earth:

Suffer not our frailties to become a custom; lest we die impenitent, and irrecoverably perish:

Deliver us, O Lord, from the occasions of sin; and the importunities of such as delight in folly:

Deliver us from the snare of enticing company; and the dangerous infection of ill example:

Infection,

THURSDAY MORNING. 77

Infection, that spreads abroad its poisonous air; and where'er it enters, corrupts and kills.

Once more, my soul, do thou repeat this prayer; and humbly implore so necessary a blessing:

Deliver me, O Lord, from the occasions of sin; and the importunities of such as delight in folly.

Deliver me from the snare of enticing company; and the dangerous infection of ill example:

Set a strict watch continually on my eyes; and diligently keep the door of my lips:

Govern all my senses, that they seduce not my mind; and order every motion of my heart and fancy:

Perfect, O dear Redeemer, the work thou hast begun; and make, even my passions, servants of thy grace:

Change my rude anger, to a severity against myself; and a prudent zeal for others:

Convert my fear into a timorousness to offend; and an awful reverence of thy sacred name:

Let all my affections be turn'd into charity; that my heart may desire nothing but thee:

Whom I may safely love with my whole strength; whose heav'n I may covet, and fear no excess.

78 THURSDAY EVENING.

O thou, whose blisful vision is the joy of angels; and sovereign happiness of all thy saints!

O, that my soul could love thee without limits; as thou art in thyself most infinitely amiable!

That I could steadily fix my thoughts on thee, and not take them off from the memory of thy sweetness!

At least, O thou fountain of eternal bounty; which flows so freely with perpetual blessings!

Let every day I receive of thee, still set apart some portion of itself:

Seriously to meditate thy infinite mercies; and heartily rejoice in thy glorious rewards:

Mercies, that give me all that I have; and rewards, that reserve for me, all that I can wish.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

PSALM XXIX.

WELL, we are so much nearer our grave; and all the world is older by a day.

The portion of the wicked, is so much less; and the time of their punishment, so much approach'd.

The

THURSDAY EVENING. 79

The sufferings of the patient are so much diminish'd ; and the hopes of their delivery, so much increas'd :

They who have spent their day in sin and folly, see all their thoughts now vanish like a dream :

They see all is past, but the fear of vengeance ; and the best that can follow, is a bitter repentance :

But such as have wisely bestow'd their time ; and made some advances in their way to heav'n :

They see their joys come to meet them in the way ; and still grow bigger as they come :

Till by a holy death they join in one ; and dwell together for eternal ages.

O thou bless'd author of all our hopes, and perfect satisfier of all our wishes !

Do thou instruct me, in this important truth ; and let every evening renew it on my mind :

That the things of this world, are of little import ; since its joys and griefs last but for a time :

But, the future state most infinitely concerns me ; where life and death endure for ever.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XXX.

WE are nearer indeed the end of our life ;
but are we nearer the end, for which
we live ?

What hast thou done, my soul, to-day,
that truly advanceth thee to thy last great
home ?

Hast thou enlarg'd thy esteem of heav'n ;
and settled its love more strongly in thy
heart ?

Hast thou avoided any known tempta-
tion ; or faithfully resisted, when thou couldst
not avoid ?

Hast thou interrupted thy customary
faults ; and check'd the vices, thou art most
inclin'd to ?

Hast thou embrac'd the opportunities of
good ; which the mercy of Providence, has
offer'd to thy hands ?

Hast thou industriously contriv'd occa-
sions, to improve, as thou art able, thyself
and others ?

Alas ! dread Lord, what do I see ; when
seriously I look into my guilty self !

When I reflect on my former years ;
nay, ev'n the follies but of one whole
day :

So many hours spent in nothing ; so many
abus'd in worse than nothing :

Pardon,

THURSDAY EVENING. 81

Pardon, O meek Redeemer, what my passions have done ; and favourably supply what my weakness has omitted :

Make me hereafter more carefully watch ; that my time unprofitably slide not away :

Make me daily select some fit retreat ; to study the knowledge of myself and Thee :

Myself, to correct my many infirmities ; and Thee, to adore thy infinite perfections.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XXXI.

Little, thou know'st, O Lord, is the good we do ; and every grain of it, deriv'd from thee :

Great, I confess, are the sins we commit ; and all to be charg'd intirely on ourselves.

Tell me, my soul, when first thou hast well examin'd, th' innumerable circumstances that concern thy state :

Tell me, and let not pride deny the truth ; nor any thing divert thy free confession :

Could we have sav'd ourselves from that dangerous temptation, unless our God had powerfully sustain'd us ?

Could we have carry'd on that pious purpose ; unless his hand had bless'd our endeavours ?

82 THURSDAY EVENING,

No, no; to thee, O Lord, be all the praise; if thy creatures have perform'd the least good work:

To thy tremendous name, be all the glory; if they have not committed the worst of sins:

Thy hand alone directs us to do well; and the same bless'd hand restrains us from ill.

'Tis not in us, to esteem those unseen joys; and despise the flatteries of this deceitful world:

'Tis not the work of corrupted nature, to mortify our senses; and patiently to bear the crosses that we meet.

Of ourselves, we are inclin'd to none of these; but the grace of God enables us to all:

Grace gives us strength to overcome our passions; and the world, and the flesh, shall be subject to us:

Grace gives us faith to fortify our reason; and heav'n itself shall be conquer'd by us.

O blessed Jesu! our Hope, our Strength, and the full Rewarder of all thy servants:

As thou hast freely prepar'd for us noble rewards; so, Lord, let thy grace enable us to work:

Make us direct our whole life to thee; and undervalue all things compar'd to thy love:

Seal thou our eyes, to the illusions of this world; and open them upwards, to thy solid glories:

That

FRIDAY MORNING. 83

That when our earthly tabernacle shall be dissolv'd; and this house of clay fall down into dust :

We may ascend to thee, and dwell above; in the building not made with hands, eternal in the heav'ns.

Glory be to the Father, &c.



FRIDAY MORNING.

PSALM XXXII.



Y God, who can complain of doing too much; if they consider the labours of Jesus?

Those painful labours he so freely undertook, and so happily finish'd for our sakes:

When he might have flown on the wings of cherubims; he chose to walk with us worms in the dust:

When he might have call'd for manna from heav'n; in the sweat of his brows, he would eat his bread:

When he might have made the angels his footstool: he rather became the servant of his parents;

84 FRIDAY MORNING.

Living with them in their little cottage;
and readily obeying ev'n their least command :

There, in that humble privacy, he increas'd in wisdom; and grew in favour, both with God and man :

Still, by his pious candour, gaining the love of those happy few that saw his life :

That saw thy holy life, O glorious Jesu!
and heard with joy and wonder, thy incomparable sayings :

That felt a gentle motion stir their hearts,
to love and imitate so bless'd a pattern.

Oh, that the same sweet spirit of grace,
might draw our minds, dear Lord, to thee!

Oh, that we could, in every passage of
our life, still actually reflect on the example
of thine !

Thy retirements were filled with holy speculations ; and in the midst of business, thy mind was free for heav'n :

Thy converse with others, mis-spent no time, but bestow'd every moment in excellent charity :

To instruct the ignorant, and reduce the deceiv'd ; to comfort the afflicted, and heal the diseas'd :

To convince the froward, and absolve the penitent ; and persuade all the world to be truly happy :

It was thy meat and drink to do thy Father's will; O make it ours to perform thine:

Make

FRIDAY MORNING. 85

Make us in every action still think on thee; what thou wouldst counsel us to do:

What thou thyself wouldst do, O blessed Jesu! if thou again wert here amongst us:

And when we thus have learn'd our duty; Lord, make us to do, what thou hast made us to know.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XXXIII.

MY God, who can repine at suffering too much; if they remember the afflictions of Jesus?

Those many afflictions he so patiently endur'd; and silently bore, under all their weight:

Even from his humble cradle in the grot of *Bethlehem*; to his bitter cross on the mount of *Calvary*:

How little do we read of glad and prosperous! how much of pains, and grief, and perpetual affronts!

Sometimes abandon'd by his dearest friends; and left alone among all his discomforts:

Sometimes pursu'd by his fiercest enemies; and made the common mark of all their spite:

Some-

86 FRIDAY MORNING.

Sometimes they plot to insnare him in his words ; and enviously slander his miraculous deeds :

Sometimes tumultuously they gather about him ; to gaze at, and abuse this man of sorrows :

Sometimes they furiously seize on his person ; and hale, and drag him along the streets :

At last, they all conspire to take away his life ; and condemn him to a sharp and cruel death.

Have you not seen a harmless lamb, stand silent in the midst of ravenous wolves ?

So stood the Prince of peace and innocence ; encompass'd with a rout of savage Jews :

When they blasphem'd him, he reply'd not again ; when they injuriously struck him, he only observed their rashness :

When they provok'd him with their utmost malice, he pleaded their excuse ; and when they murder'd him, he earnestly pray'd for their pardon :

O strange ingratitude of human nature ? thus barbarously to crucify the world's Redeemer !

O admirable love of the world's Redeemer ; thus patiently to die, for the human nature !

Say now, my soul, for whom thy dearest Lord endur'd all this, and infinitely more ;

Can

FRIDAY MORNING. 87

Canst thou complain of thy little troubles ;
when the King of glory was thus afflicted ?

Canst thou complain of a meanly furnish'd
house ; when the Son of God had not where
to lay his head ?

We wear the badge of a crucify'd Lord ;
and shall we shrink back at any cross we
meet ?

We believe in a Saviour who was crown'd
with thorns ; and shall we abide to tread on
nothing but roses ?

Before our eyes, O Jesu, we see thee
humble and meek ; and shall thy servants
be proud and insolent ?

We see thee travel up and down, poor
and unregarded ; and shall thy followers
strive to be rich and esteemed ?

Thy charitable labours were maliciously
slander'd ; and shall not our faults have the
patience to be reprov'd ?

Thou disdain'dst not to be call'd, in scorn,
the carpenter's son ; and cannot our low-
ness bear a little disparagement ?

Oh, how unlike are we to that bless'd
original ; who descended from heav'n, to
become our pattern !

How do we go astray from that sacred
path ; which Jesus traced with his holy
steps !

Pity, O dear Redeemer, the infirmities of
thy children ; and strengthen with thy grace
our fainting hearts :

Arm

88 FRIDAY MORNING.

Arm us, O glorious Conqueror of sin and death! against all the fears and terrors of the world:

Arm all our powers with those celestial virtues of faith and hope, and invincible love:

That we may still go on, and resolutely meet whatever stands in our way to heav'n:

Since we must suffer as christians, and deserve it as sinners; Lord, let us bear it, as becomes thy servants.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

P S A L M XXXIV.

MY God, when I consider what thou hast suffer'd for us; and what we have wickedly done against thee:

I am amaz'd at the wonders of thy goodness; and confounded at the vileness of our misery:

Our sins were the cause of thy cruel death; yet still we permit them to live in us:

We entertain the worst of thy enemies; and treacherously lodge them in our own bosoms:

Preferring a petty interest, before thy heav'n; a transitory pleasure, before eternal felicity:

Many,

FRIDAY MORNING. 89

Many, we confess, are the follies of our life; and our consciences tremble at their own great guilt:

Many are the times thou hast graciously pardon'd us; and still we relapse, and abuse thy clemency:

The memory of our transgressions is bitter unto us; and the thought of our ingratitude extremely afflicts us:

But is there, O my Jesu! any stain so foul, which thy precious blood cannot wash away?

Is there any heap of sins so vast, to exceed the number of thy infinite mercies?

Oh, no! thou can'st forgive more than we can offend; but thou wilt not forgive, unless we fear to offend:

Unless we seek to thee for pardon and peace; and humble ourselves, in thy holy presence.

Wherefore, behold, O Lord, I fall down at thy crucify'd feet; and there ask pardon for my perverse affections:

Reverently I kiss thy pierced hands; and implore forgiveness of my wicked actions:

Humbly I salute thy bleeding side; and supplicate thy grace to purify my intentions:

All we can offer thy offended Majesty, to pacify the justice of thy wrath,

Is only an humble eye bath'd in tears; and a penitent heart broken with contrition:

Only

90 FRIDAY MORNING.

Only a firm resolve to change our lives;
and even all this we must beg of thee.

O thou my gracious and indulgent Lord!
who freely pardonest all that truly repent:

Who givest repentance to all that ask; and
invitest all to ask, by promising to give:

Make me look seriously into my own
breast; and heartily lament my many fail-
ings:

Make me search diligently for my bosom
sins; and strive to cast them out, by prayer
and fasting:

Open thou, O Lord, my lips, to accuse
my crimes; that I blush not to confess, what
I fear'd not to do.

Correct my past sins with the works of
repentance; that the stains they leave, may
be quite taken away:

Preserve me hereafter with thy powerful
grace; that no temptation surprise or o'er-
come me:

Extend thy mercy, O Lord, over all my
works; since thyself hast declar'd, 'tis above
all thine own.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XXXV.

SHALL we rejoice, my soul, to day?
shall we not mourn at the funeral of our
dear Redeemer?

Such, O my Lord, was the excess of thy
goodness, to derive joys to us, from thy
own sorrows:

Thou forbid'st thy followers to weep for
thee; and reserv'dst to thyself alone the
shame and grief:

Thou invite'st all the world to glory in thy
cross: and command'st us to delight in the
memory of thy passion.

Sing then, all you dear-bought nations
of the earth! sing hymns of glory to the
holy Jesus:

Sing every one, who pretends to felicity;
sing immortal praises to the God of our sal-
vation:

To him, who for us endur'd so much scorn;
and patiently receiv'd so many injuries:

To him, who for us sweat drops of blood;
and drank of the dregs of his Father's wrath:

To the eternal Lord of heav'n and earth;
who for us was slain by the hands of the
wicked:

Who for us was led as a sheep to the
slaughter; and as a meek lamb, open'd not
his mouth:

Whi-

Whither, O my God, did thy compassion carry thee! how did thy charity too far prevail with thee!

Was it not enough to become man for us; but thou must expose thyself to all our miseries?

Was it not enough to labour all thy life; but thou must suffer for us, even the pains of death?

No, gracious Lord, thy mercy still observ'd, some wants in our nature yet unsupply'd:

Thou saw'st our too much fondness of life, needed thy parting with it, to reconcile us to death:

Thou saw'st our fear of sufferings, could no way be abated, but by freely undergoing them in thine own person:

O blessed Jesu! whose grace alone, begins and perfects all our hopes:

How are we bound to praise thy love! how infinitely obliged to adore thy goodness!

At any rate thou would'st still go on, to heal our weak and wounded nature:

Even at the price of thine own dear blood; thou wouldst finish for us the purchase of heav'n.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XXXVI.

AWAKE, my soul, and speedily prepare,
thy richest sacrifice of humble praise :

Awake, and summon all thy thoughts, to
make haste and adore our great Redeemer :

For now, it is time we should reverently
go ; and offer our hearts at the foot of his
cross :

Thither, let us fly from the troubles of
the world ; there, let us dwell among the
mercies of heav'n :

Under the shade of that happy tree, let
us kneel ; and often look up to our dearest
Lord :

Let us remember every passage of his
love ; and be sure that none escape our
thanks :

Let us compassionate every stroke of his
death ; and, one by one, salute his sacred
wounds :

Bless'd be the hands, that wrought so
many miracles ; and were barbarously pierc'd
with cruel nails :

Bless'd be the feet, that so often travell'd
for us ; and at last were unmercifully fasten'd
to the cross :

Bless'd be the head, which was crown'd
with thorns ; the head that so industriously
studied our happiness :

Bless'd

Bless'd be the heart, which was pierc'd
with a spear; the heart that so passionately
lov'd our peace :

Bless'd be the intire person of our cruci-
fy'd Lord; and may all our powers join
in his praise :

In thy eternal praise, O gracious Jesu!
and the ravishing thoughts of thy incompa-
rable sweetness.

Oh! what excess of kindness was this!
what strange extremity of love and pity!

The Lord is sold, that the slave may be
free; the innocent condemn'd, that the
guilty may be sav'd :

The physician is sick, that the patient
may be cur'd; and God-Man dies, that
man may live!

Tell me, my soul, when first thou hast
well consider'd; and look'd about among
all we know :

Tell me, who ever wish'd us so much good?
who ever lov'd us with so much tenderness?

What have our nearest friends done for
us? or ev'n our parents, in comparison of
this charity?

No less than the Son of God, came down
to redeem us; no less than his own dear
life, was the price he paid for us :

What can the favour of the whole world
promise us, compar'd to this miraculous
bounty!

No

FRIDAY EVENING. 95

No less than the joys of angels are become our hope; no less than the kingdom of heav'n is made our inheritance.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

PSALM XXXVII.

TO thee, O Lord, owe we our whole selves; for making us after thine own image:

To thee, O Lord, we owe more than ourselves; for redeeming us with the death of thy only Son.

Nor were our ruins so soon repair'd; as at first our being was easily produc'd:

Thy power to create us, said but one word; and immediately we became a living soul:

But, thy wisdom to redeem us, both spake much; and wrought more, and suffer'd most of all:

To redeem us, he humbled himself to this low world; and all th' infirmities of our miserable nature:

He patiently endur'd hunger and thirst; and the malicious affronts of enrag'd enemies:

How

How many times did he hazard his life; to sustain with courage the truths of heav'n!

How many tears did he tenderly weep; in compassion of his blind, ungrateful country!

How many drops of blood did he shed, in the doleful garden, and on the bitter cross!

The cross, where, after three long hours, of grief and shame, and intolerable pains;

He meekly bow'd his fainting head; and in an agony of pray'r, yielded up the ghost:

So sets the glorious sun in a sad cloud; and leaves our earth in darkness and disorder:

But shines immediately in the other world; and soon returns again to bring us light:

And so dost thou, dear Lord, and more; thy very darkness is our light:

'Tis by thy death, we are made to live; and by thy wounds our sores are heal'd.

O my ador'd Redeemer, who took'st upon thee all our miseries; to impart to us thine own felicities!

Can we remember thy labours for us; and not be convinced of our duty to thee?

Can our cold hearts recount thy sufferings; and not be inflam'd with the love that suffer'd?

Can we believe our salvation cost thee so dear; and live as if to be sav'd, were not worth our pains?

Ungrateful we, how do we slight the kindness of our God! how carelessly comply with his gracious design!

For all his gifts, he requires no other return; than to hope still more, and desire still greater blessings:

For all his favours, he seeks no other praise; than our following his steps to arrive at his glory.

O glorious Jesu! to thee, I lowly bow; and humbly kiss the dust, in honour of thy death:

Behold, to thee, I reverently bow; to implore th' assistance of thy special grace:

That I may wean my affections, from all vain desires; and clear my thoughts, from all impertinent fancies:

Then shall my life be intirely dedicated to thee; and all the faculties of my soul, to thy holy service:

My mind shall continually study thy knowledge; and my will grow every day stronger in thy love:

My memory shall faithfully lay up thy mercies; and both tongue, and heart, shall sing for ever.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

P S A L M XXXVIII.

LORD, how the world requites thy love!
how ungrateful are we to thy blessed
memory!

We negligently forget thy sacred passion;
or rather, far worse, our sins renew thy sufferings :

While we deprive others of their right;
what do we else, but divest thee of thy
clothes ?

While we delight in strife and schism;
what do we else but rend thy seamless
coat ?

If we despise the least of thy servants;
are we not as so many *Herods* that scorn'd
thee ?

If we for fear proceed against our con-
science ; how are we better than *Pilate*, who
condemn'd thee ?

By forsaking thy will to follow our own;
do we not chuse a murderer before thee ?

By retaining a sharp and bitter malice; do
we not give thee vinegar and gall to drink ?

By shewing no mercy to the poor and
afflicted ; do we not pass by thy cross as
strangers unconcern'd ?

Thus we again crucify the Lord of glory;
and put him afresh to an open shame :

Is this, O wretched we! the duty we pay,
to the sacred memory of our dear Redeemer?

Are

Are these the thanks our gratitude returns,
to that strange excess of our Saviour's love?

When we sat in darkness, he took us by the
hand; and kindly led us to his glorious light:

We sought not him, but he came from
far to find us; we look'd not towards him,
but his mercy call'd after us:

He call'd aloud in words of tenderness;
Why will ye perish, O ye children of men?

Why will ye run after empty trifles; as
if there were no joys above with me?

Return, O you dear-bought souls, and I
will receive you; repent, and tho' you had
really crucify'd me, I will forgive you.

Behold, O blessed Jesu! to thee I come;
and on thy holy cross fasten all my confi-
dence:

Never will I unclasp my faithful hold;
till thy grace hath seal'd the pardon of my
sins:

Never will I part from that standard of
hope; till my troubled conscience be dis-
missed in peace:

There will I stand, and sigh, and weep;
and humbly to thy mercy say:

Jesu, my God, I suffer violence; Jesu, my
Redeemer, answer thou for me.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

P S A L M XXXIX.

BE silent, O my soul ; and the Lord will answer for thee ; be content, and he is thy security :

Be innocent, and he will defend thee ; be humble, and he will exalt thee :

He will forgive thee all thou repentest of ; he will bestow on thee, more than thou askest :

Never let us fear the favour of our God ; if we can but esteem and desire it :

He that so freely gave us himself, will he not with himself give us all things else ?

Is not his painful life, and bitter death, a sufficient pledge of his love to us ?

Is not his infinite love to us, a sufficient motive of our duty to him ?

A duty, to which we are so many ways oblig'd ; and wherein our eternity is so highly concern'd :

Surely they have little faith, and far less hope ; who doubt the mercies of so gracious a God :

Mercies confirm'd by a thousand miracles ; and dearly seal'd with his own blood :

That innocent blood which was shed for us ; to appease the wrath of his offended Father :

That blood, whose every precious drop, was worthy to save so many worlds :

FRIDAY EVENING. 101

O blest'd, and all redeeming blood! which
flow'd so freely from the source of life :

Bathe my polluted soul in thy clear streams;
and purge away all my foul impurities :

Cleanse me, O merciful Lord, from my
secret faults; and from those darling sins that
most abuse me :

Wash off the stains which my wicked-
ness caus'd in others ; and those which my
weakness has receiv'd of them :

Let not them perish by my occasion ; nor
let me be undone by theirs :

But let our charity assist each other ; and
thy clemency pardon us all :

Pardon, O gracious Jesu, what we have
been ; and with thy holy discipline correct
what we are :

Order by thy providence, what we shall
be ; and crown thy own gifts with endless
glory.

Glory be to the Father, &c. +

PSALM XL.

SHouldst thou, O Lord, have dealt with
us in rigour ; we had long since been sen-
tenc'd to eternal death :

Long since our guilty souls had been
snatch'd away ; and hurried down to ever-
lasting torments :

But thy gracious mercy hath repriev'd our lives; and given us space to work out our pardon.

Now is the time of acceptance with thee; now is the day of salvation for us:

Now let us mourn our former offences; and bring forth fruits meet for repentance:

If we, O Jesu! have hitherto persecuted thee; and with our sins have nail'd thee to the accursed tree:

Now let our whole endeavours attend thy service; and loyally conspire to uncrucify their Lord:

Let us ascend the mount of *Calvary*; and as often as we go, kiss thy holy steps:

We kiss thy steps, when we love thy ways; and humble ourselves, and follow thee:

Let us there on our knees approach thy cross; and reverently cover thy naked body:

We cover thee, when our charity clothes thy servants; and hides the infirmities of thy little ones:

Let us there, with tend'rest care, unfasten the nails; and gently draw them out of thy hands and feet:

We draw them out, when we freely obey thy will; and loosen our affections from cleaving to the world:

Lord,

FRIDAY EVENING. 103

Lord, when we thus have rescued thee ;
and placed thee again on thy throne of
glory :

Instead of thyself, nail thou us to thy
cross ; who really deserve, what thou really
enduredst :

Crucify our flesh with the fear of thee ;
and give us our portion of sorrow here :

Crucify the world to us, and us to the
world ; that, dead to it, we may live in
thee :

At least, live thou in us, O holy Jesu !
and fit our souls for so glorious a guest :

Enter into our hearts, and fill them with
thyself ; that no room be left for any thing
but thee :

One only hope we have, thy care of us ;
one only fear, the neglect our ourselves.

Glory be to the Father, &c.





SATURDAY MORNING.

PSALM XLI.



Rostrate before thy tomb, O
Lord, behold, we freely confess
our misery :

And in the lowest posture of
afflicted pilgrims, humbly im-
plore thy mercy ;

Peacefully in the grave thy body repos'd ;
and thy soul went triumphing to redeem thy
captives :

But we, alas ! thy helpless orphans ; how
are we left in the midst of our enemies !

To how many dangers is our life expos'd !
with how many temptations are we round
besieg'd !

Temptations in meat, temptations in
drink, temptations in conversing, tempta-
tions in solitude :

Temptations in business, temptations in
leisure ; temptations in riches, temptations
in poverty :

All our ways are strew'd with snares ; and
even our own senses conspire against us.

Whi-

SATURDAY MORNING. 105

Whither, O my God, shall our poor souls go ; incompass'd with a body so frail, and a world so corrupt ?

Whither, but to thee, the justifier of sinners ; and to thy grace, the sustainer of the weak :

Thy grace instructs us what we ought to do ; and breeds in us the will, to endeavour what we know :

Thy grace enables us to perform our resolves ; and when all is done, thy grace must give the success :

Govern me with thy grace, O eternal wisdom ; and direct my steps in thy safe way :

Order every chance to prevent my falling ; and still lead me on, to my happy end :

Give me the eye, and wing of an eagle ; to see my danger, and fly swiftly away :

If I must needs engage the enemy ; and no means be left to escape the encounter ;

Strengthen me, O Lord, to persevere with courage ; that I may never fail in my fidelity to thee :

Convince me, blessed Jesu, into this firm belief ; and may my memory faithfully retain it :

Whatever my senses say to deceive me ; or the world to obscure so beauteous a truth :

106 SATURDAY MORNING.

That thyself alone, art my chieft good ;
and the sight of thy glory, my supreme felicity.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XLII.

IF we have rejoic'd for ourselves, in the sufferings of our Lord ; let us now rejoice for him, that his sufferings are ended :

Now, that the fowler's net is broken ;
and the meek and innocent dove escap'd :

Now, that the cup of bitterness is pass'd away ; and never possible to return again.

Never again, O dearest Jesu, shall those bless'd eyes weep ; nor thy holy soul, be sorrowful to death :

Never shall thy precious life be subject any more, to the bloody malice of ambitious hypocrites :

Never shall thy innocence any more be oppos'd, to the barbarous fury of an ungrateful multitude :

But thou shalt live and reign for ever ; and all created nature perpetually adore thee :

O happy end of well endur'd affliction ! O blessed fruits that spring from the cross of Jesus !

Look up, my soul, and see thy crucify'd Lord, sit gloriously in thorn'd at the right hand of his Father.

Behold

SATURDAY MORNING. 107

Behold the ragged purple, now turn'd
into a robe of light ; and the scornful reed,
into a royal sceptre :

The wreath of thorns, is grown into a
sparkling diadem ; and all his scars, are
polish'd into brightness :

His tears, are all now chang'd into joy ;
and the laughter of his persecutors, into sad
despair :

Herod, long since, perish'd in miserable
contempt ; and *Pilate* still trembles with
everlasting fears :

Th' impenitent *Jews* are scatter'd o'er the
world ; to attest his truth, and their own
obdurate blindness :

But himself is crown'd with eternal
triumphs ; and the souls he has redeem'd
shall sing his victories for ever :

Live, glorious King of men and angels ;
live, happy Conqueror of sin and death :

Our praises shall always attend thy cross ;
and our patience, endeavour to bear our
own :

Thro' fiercest dangers, our faith shall fol-
low thee ; and nothing wrest from us, our
hope to see thee :

We'll fear no more the sting of death ;
nor be frighted at the darkness of the grave :

Since thou hast chang'd our grave, into a
bed of rest ; and made death itself, but a
passage into life :

108 SATURDAY MORNING.

We'll love no more the pleasures of
vanity ; nor set our hearts on unsatisfying
riches :

Since thou hast open'd paradise again ;
and purchas'd for us, the kingdom of
heaven.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XLIII.

WHY do we still pursue this world ;
and so eagerly seek its fond enjoy-
ments ?

A world of vanity, and false deceits ; a
world of misery, and sad disasters :

Whose crosses are solid, and comforts
empty ; whose sorrows are lasting, and de-
lights soon pass away :

A world, where the innocent are con-
demn'd with shame ; and the guilty freed
with applause :

Where often the wicked are advanc'd to
honour ; and the virtuous oppress'd with
disgrace :

Where friends fall off, and kindred for-
get ; and every one minds his private in-
terest :

Yet are we taken with this crooked world ;
and blindly court its painted face :

We

SATURDAY MORNING. 109

We make some ugly passion, mistress of our heart ; and neglect the pure and amiable love of Jesus ;

Whose goodness to us, gives us all we have ; whose perfections in himself, are more than we can conceive.

Thou art, O glorious Jesu, the beauty of angels ; and the everlasting joy, of all thy saints :

Thou art the heav'n of heav'n itself ; and in thy sight alone, is the fulness of bliss.

All this thou art, and infinitely more ; and yet, alas ! how few esteem thee !

The world, we dearly know, too often has deceiv'd us ; and our rashness prompts us to be deceiv'd again :

Thou never, O Jesu, hast fail'd our hope ; and our dulness fears to rely on thee :

The world distracts, and embroils our spirits ; and wretched we, delight in our misery :

Thou always, O Jesu, fillest our hearts with peace ; and senseless we, are weary of thy happiness :

The world calls, and we faint in following it ; thou call'st, and we are still reliev'd by thee :

Yet is our nature so ungratefully perverse ; we run after that which tires, and abandon that which refreshes :

Sometimes our lips speak gloriously of thee ; O thou living fountain of eternal bliss !

Some

110 SATURDAY MORNING.

Some happy times we relish thy sweetness;
and decry aloud the poison of the world :

But we are soon entic'd, by its gilded cup;
and easily forsake the waters of life :

O blessed Jesus ! who took'st upon thee
all our frailties ; to bestow on us thine own
perfections :

Teach me to prize the joys of heav'n ;
and part with all things else, to purchase
thee :

Make all the pleasures of this life seem
bitter to my taste ; as they are indeed per-
nicious to my health :

Let not their flatteries any more delude me ;
nor superfluous cares perplex my mind :

But may my chief delight be to think on
thee ; and all my study to grow in thy love.

O my adored Jesus ! let me always love
thee ; since from eternity thou hast loved
me :

O let me love thee, only, O gracious
God ! because thou, alone, deservest my
heart.

Always, and only, let me love thee, O
Lord ; since always my hope, is only in
thee.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

PSALM XLIV.

UNhappy we, children of the dust! why
were we born to see the sun?

Why did our mothers bring us forth to
misery; and unkindly rejoice to hear us
cry?

Whither, alas! has their error led us!
into how sad a condition doth our birth en-
gage us!

We enter the world with weeping eyes;
and go out with sighing hearts:

All the few days we live, are full of va-
nity; and our choicest pleasures sprinkl'd
with bitterness.

The time that's pass'd, is vanish'd like a
dream; and that which is to come, is not
yet at all:

The present we are in, stays but a mo-
ment; and then flies away, and returns no
more:

Already we are dead to the years we have
liv'd; and shall never live them over again:

But the longer that we live, the shorter
is our life; and in the end, we become a
little lump of clay!

O vain, and miserable world! how sadly
true is all this story!

And

112 SATURDAY EVENING.

And yet, alas ! this is not all ; but new complaints remain, and more, and worse :

We begin our race, in contemptible weakness ; and our whole course, is a progress of dangers :

If we escape the mischances of a child ; we pass on to the rash adventures of youth :

If we outlive those sudden storms ; we fall into far more destructive evils :

Our superfluous cares deliberately consume us ; and the crosses of the world, wear out our lives :

Should we, by strange success, o'ercome all these ; and still bear up our prosperous head :

We are sure, at last, old age, will find us ; and bow our strength down to the grave :

The grave, from which no privilege exempts ; whose power, no creature is able to controul :

The rich must leave their wealth behind them ; and the great ones of the world be crumbled into dust :

The beauteous face must be turn'd into rottenness ; and the pamper'd body become the food of worms :

The busy man must find a time to die ; tho' his full employment spares none, to provide for it :

Even the wise and virtuous, must submit to fate ; and the heirs of life, be made the prisoners of death.

This

SATURDAY EVENING. 113

This when I see, I weep, and am afraid ;
since we must all drink of the same cold
cup :

All must go down to the same dark
grave ; and none can tell how soon he may
be call'd :

To-day we are in health, among our
friends and affairs ; and to-morrow arrested
by the hand of death :

Nature may faintly struggle for a time ;
but must yield at last, and be buried in the
earth !

At last we must take leave of our nearest
relations ; and bid a long farewell to all the
world :

Perhaps, the people may talk of us a-
while ; sometimes as we deserve, and often,
as they please :

Perhaps, our bodies once laid out of
sight ; we are remember'd no more, than
if we had never been :

Only our good works follow us to the
grave ; and go faithfully with us, beyond
our funerals.

Give me eternal rest, O merciful Lord ;
and may thy glorious light, shine upon me
for ever.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XLV.

WHY do we thus bemoan ourselves; and rashly utter such repining words?

Seems it so hard a fate to tread the path, which all our ancestors have gone before us?

Adam the first of men; and *Abraham* the friend of God: *David* the man after God's own heart; and the blessed *Mary*, virgin mother of our Lord:

All these have paid their debt due to nature; and subscrib'd the law of universal mortality:

Jesus himself, the eternal Son of God, expir'd on the cross; and went to his glory, thro' the gates of death:

And shall our fond self-love so blindly flatter us; to wish an exception from this general rule?

Shall we be murmuring still, Our life is but a span; and *that* expos'd to innumerable sorrows?

Does not the very shortness abate its misery? Do not those many miseries, commend its shortness?

Should we not rather rejoice at the sight of death; which, whene'er it comes, still brings us advantage?

If in our age: it is a haven of repose; and ought to be welcome, after so long a voyage:

If

SATURDAY EVENING. 115

If in our youth : it prevents a thousand calamities ; a thousand dangers of ruining our souls :

If by an ordinary sickness : 'tis the course of nature ; if by outward violence : 'tis always the will of heaven :

What need we fear how many deaths there are ? we are sure, there can be but one for us :

Dying is an act to be done but once ; and once well done, we are happy for ever.

Lord ! we confess thy decrees are just ; and ourselves the cause of all our miseries :

We sacrifice our youth to sport and folly : and our manly years to lust and pride :

We spend our old age, in craft and avarice ; and begin not to live, till we are ready to die :

Then, we bewail the shortness of our time ; when ourselves have prodigally thrown it away :

We lead a loose and negligent life ; and then complain death takes us unawares :

Our days, perhaps, are too few to grow rich ; or satisfy th' ambition of a haughty spirit :

But to be taught the love of God, and the meek and humble life of Jesus,

Requires not so much the number of years ; as the faithful endeavours of a pious mind :

Would we bestow on the improvement of our souls, the time we so vainly trifle away ;

Our

116 SATURDAY EVENING.

Our day would be short enough, not to seem tedious ; and long enough, to finish our appointed task.

And, what, O glorious Lord, is our business here ; but to trim our lamps, and wait thy coming ?

But to sow th'immortal seed of hope ; and expect hereafter to reap the increase ?

No matter how late the fruit be gather'd ; if still it goes on in growing better :

No matter how soon it falls from the tree ; if not blown down before it be ripe :

O thou most just and secret Providence ! who govern'st all things by the counsel of thy will !

Whose powerful hand can wound and heal ; lead down to the grave, and bring back again !

Behold, to thee, I humbly bow ; and freely commit my dearest concerns.

Strike, as thou pleasest, my health, my life ; I cannot be safer than at thy dispose :

Only these few requests I humbly beg ; which, O may thy clemency vouchsafe to hear !

Cut me not off in the midst of my folly ; nor suffer me to expire, with my sins unpardon'd :

But make me, Lord, first ready for thyself ; then take me to thyself, in thine own fit time.

Give

SATURDAY EVENING. 117

Give me eternal rest, O merciful Lord !
and may thy glorious light shine upon me
for ever. †

Glory be to the Father, &c.

PSALM XLVI.

THIS life indeed is the way that we must
walk ; but this alone cannot bring us
to our end :

Ere we arrive at our appointed home ;
we must be led thro' the gates of death :

Where, we shall be absolutely stripp'd of
all we have ; and carry nothing with us, but
what we are :

Where, we not only must quit the world ;
but leave behind us, even part of ourselves :

Hast thou, my soul, seen some neighbour
die ? and dost thou remember those circum-
stances of sorrow ?

We are sure, the case will ere long, be
our own ; and are not sure, but it may be
very soon :

Have we ourselves been dangerously sick ?
and do we remember the thoughts we had
then ?

How we resolv'd to correct our passions ;
and strive against the vices, that particularly
endanger us :

'Twill

'Twill come to this again, and no reprieve
be found, to stay one single minute the hand
of death :

But he, immediately, will seize upon us ;
and bear us away to the region of spirits :

There to be rang'd in our proper place ;
as the course of our life has qualified us here.

Nor is this all, to expire and die ; and
dwell for a time in a state of separation :

We must expect ere long another day ;
a day of public accounts, and restitution
of all things :

When the archangel shall sound his trum-
pet ; and proclaim aloud this universal sum-
mons ;

Arise ye dead, and come to judgment ;
arise, and appear before the throne of God :

Then shall the heaps of dust immediately
awake ; and every soul put on her proper
body :

Then all the children of *Adam*, shall be
gather'd together ; from heav'n and hell,
and every corner of the earth :

There must they stand, and all attend
their doom ; but O, with how sad, and
fatal a difference !

The just shall look up with a chearful
confidence ; and in their new white robes,
triumph and sing,

“ Alleluiah ; let us rejoice, for the mar-
riage of the Lamb is come ; and his bride
hath prepar'd herself :

“ Let

SATURDAY EVENING. 119

" Let us rejoice, for the kingdom of the
" world, is made our Lord's and his Christ's;
" and he shall reign for ever and ever :

" Let us rejoice, for now our Redeemer
" is nigh ; behold, he comes quickly, and
" his reward is with him :

" Come, come, Lord Jesu, thou long
" desire of our hearts ; come quickly, thou
" full delight of our souls :

" Come, and declare to all the world,
" thy glory ; come, and reward before all
" the world, thy servants."

Lo, where aloft he comes, in power and
majesty ; attended with a train of innume-
rable angels :

Behold, where he sits inthron'd on the
wings of cherubims ; and takes at once a
view of all mankind ;

Soon he commands his angels to sever
the sheep ; and gather them together on his
right hand :

First then to them he turns his glorious
face ; and shines upon them with these ra-
vishing words :

*Come, ye blessed of my Father, possess the
kingdom prepared for you, from the beginning
of the world.*

O the joys their souls shall feel ; when
those heav'nly words shall reach their ears !

Joys, that the wit of man, cannot con-
ceive ; joys, that the tongues of angels can-
not express !

Let

120 SATURDAY EVENING.

Let it suffice, themselves shall taste their own felicity; and feed for ever, on its sweetness.

But O! with what dejected eyes, and trembling hearts, shall the wicked stand expecting their judge;

What shall they do, when, where'er they look, their eye can meet with nothing but despair?

Above, the offended judge ready to condemn them; below, the bottomless pit gaping to devour them:

Within, the worm of conscience gnawing their bowels; and round about, all the world in flames:

What shall they do, when that terrible voice, shall strike them suddenly down to the bottom of hell?

Go, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

The day of man, is past, when sinners did what they pleas'd; and God then seem'd to hold his peace:

'Tis now the day of God, when his wrath shall speak in thunder; and sinners suffer what their wickedness deserves.

Then, shall they sink immediately into the pit of sorrow; and dwell in darkness, and torments for ever:

While, the just shall go up in joy and triumph; and reign with our Lord in his kingdom for ever.

Thus,

SATURDAY EVENING. 121

Thus, shall the whole creation be finally dispos'd : and mercy and justice, divide the world.

O my soul ; who now art here below ; and read'st these dreadful truths, as things afar off :

Know, thou shalt then be present, and see them with thine eyes ; and be thyself concern'd for all eternity :

Know, as thou liv'st, thou art like to die ; and as thou diest, thou art sure to be judg'd :

Think, what a sad condition it will be, to find thyself on the wrong hand :

Think, what thou then wouldst give to have repented in time ; think, what thou wouldst give for a little time to repent :

Watch therefore now, and continually pray ; for thou know'st not the hour, when the Son of man will come.

O Son of God and man ! who cam'st in mercy to save me ; bring the same mercy with thee ! when thou comest to judge me !

Mean while, assist me, with thy heavenly grace ; to stand perpetually with my accounts prepar'd :

That I may die in the peace of God, and his holy church ; and go to live with him, and his blessed saints, for ever and ever.

Glory be to the Father, &c.



F O R M S
O F
DAILY PRAYER

F O R
Morning, Noon, Evening, and Night.

As also a PRAYER for
SUNDAY MORNING and EVENING.

W I T H
PRAYERS to prepare us for Receiving the
HOLY SACRAMENT of CHRIST's Body
and Blood, and to assist us in a worthy Cele-
bration of the same.



FOR
DAILY PRAYER

Morning, Noon, and Evening
Sunday Morning and Evening
Prayer is to be said in the family
at least three times a day
and those who are unable to say
the whole of the prayer

may say the following



A PRAYER *for* MORNING.

GLORY, honour, praise, might,
majesty, and dominion be thine,
O thou infinite, eternal, most
holy, and gracious God: the
supreme Lord and Sustainer of
all things: my great Creator, Preserver, and
Benefactor, in whom I live, move, and have
my being.

Glory be to thee, for the riches of thy
goodness to me, and to all mankind: for
the manifold deliverances, vouchsaf'd me
from the womb; for the many comforts
and accommodations of life; for the means
of grace, and the hope of glory, through
Jesus my Redeemer.

[Glory be to thy good providence, in pro-
tecting me this night past, from all dangers;
in refreshing my wearied body with sweet
and comfortable sleep; and raising me in
health and strength, to partake of the com-
forts and blessings of this day.]

To thee, O God, belongs all praise and
glory: to me, shame and confusion of face,
who by my manifold transgressions have
made

made myself unworthy of the least of all thy blessings. I implore thy mercy to pardon and forgive ; the aids of thy Spirit to restore and sanctify ; and to enable me to do whatever is pleasing in thy sight.

Mortify in me, O my God, all worldly and carnal affections. Quicken in me every virtue and grace, which may qualify me for thy favour. Guide and govern me in thy love and fear, to the possession of thyself in glory.

Bless, preserve, and keep me this day, both outwardly in my body, and inwardly in my soul, from all sin, and from all dangers. Direct and assist me in the discharge of the duties of my station : prosper my honest labour and applications ; and teach me, in my conversation with the world, to speak and act as in thy sight, and with regard to that solemn account which I must hereafter give ; that I may be able to stand before the Son of man, and be found unto praise and honour in the day of his appearing.

Bless me, in my relations, friends, and benefactors : preserve us in health, and strength ; in peace, and the temperate use and enjoyment of the good things of life ; and give us grace to express our gratitude, in a due return of praise and obedience, that we may finally obtain the blessed inheritance prepared for us in heaven ; where we shall behold thy glory ; be for ever happy with thee ;

shall

Prayers for Morning. 127

shall love, honour, and adore thee, to an eternity of ages. Grant this, for Jesus Christ his sake, my ever blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

Or this.

ASSIST me, O blessed sanctifying Spirit; in these my supplications to the throne of grace, and grant that I may offer them up, with that faith, fervency, humility, reverence, and devotion, as to obtain acceptance, thro' the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ my blessed Redeemer. *Amen.*

O most glorious and eternal God, Father of mercy, and God of all comfort, I worship and adore thee, with the lowest humility of my soul and body, and give thee all thanks and praise for the continual demonstration of thy mercies upon me, upon all mine, and upon thy holy catholick church.

I acknowledge, O my God, that for my great and multiplied transgressions, I have deserved thy wrath and indignation: but thou art patient and long-suffering. Thou hast continued to me life, and time of repentance; hast opened to me the gates of grace and mercy, and perpetually callest upon me to enter in, and to walk in the paths of a holy life; that I may glo-

rify thee, and be glorified of thee eternally.

Behold, O God, for this thy great and unspeakable goodness, for the preservation of me this night, and for all other thy mercies; I humbly offer up my soul and body, as a sacrifice to thee, and to thy service; begging of thee to pardon all my sins, to defend me from all evil, to lead me into all good; that my portion may be amongst thy redeemed ones, in the gathering together of thy saints, in thy kingdom of grace and glory.

Guide me, O Lord, in all the changes and varieties of the world, that in all things that shall happen, I may have an evenness and tranquillity of spirit; that my soul may be wholly resigned to thy divine will and pleasure, never murmuring at thy gentle chastisements and fatherly correction, never waxing proud and insolent, tho' I feel a torrent of comforts and prosperous successes.

Fix my thoughts, my hopes, and desires upon heaven and heavenly things. Teach me to despise the world; to repent me deeply for my sins: give me holy purposes of amendment, and ghostly strength and assistance, to perform faithfully, whatever I shall intend piously. Enlighten my understanding with the knowledge of thy will; and do thou work in me both to will and to do what is acceptable in thy sight: that believing thy
word,

word, and obeying thy commandments, I may be partaker of thy gracious promises.

Teach me to watch over all my ways, that I may never be surpris'd by sudden temptations, or a careless spirit, nor ever return to folly and vanity. Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips, that I offend not in my tongue, neither against piety, nor charity. Teach me to think of thee, and what is in order to thy glory and service; to speak of thee, and thy glories; and to do whatever becomes thy servant, whom thy infinite mercy, by the graces of thy Holy Spirit, hath sealed up to the day of redemption.

Let all my passions and affections be so mortified, and brought under the dominion of grace, that I may never by deliberation and purpose, nor yet by levity, rashness, or inconsideration, offend thy divine Majesty. Make me such as thou wouldest have me to be: strengthen my faith, confirm my hope, and give me a daily increase of charity; that this day, and ever, I may serve thee according to all my opportunities and capacities; growing from grace to grace, till at last, by thy mercies, I shall receive the consummation and perfection of grace, even the glories of thy kingdom, in the fruition of the face and excellencies of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; To whom be glory and praise, honour and

130 Prayers for Morning.

adoration given, by all angels, and all men,
and all creatures, now and to all eternity.
Amen.

*A PRAYER for one's Wife [or Husband]
and Family.*

O GOD, who by thy mighty power hast made all things of nothing; who also didst appoint, that out of man created after thine own image and similitude, woman should take her beginning; and knitting them together, didst teach that it should never be lawful to put asunder those whom thou by matrimony hast made one: Look mercifully, I beseech thee, upon us thy servants, me and my wife [or, *me and my husband*]; and grant that I may love her, [or, *that he may love me*] according to thy word, as Christ did love his Spouse the church, who gave himself for it, cherishing it even as his own flesh: and also, that she [or, *that I*] may be loving and amiable, faithful and obedient unto me [or, *unto him*], and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly matrons. Grant unto us both health and long life, that we may continue to be a blessing to one another, [and the stay and support of the children whom in mercy thou hast been pleased to bestow upon us; on
behalf

behalf of whom I farther pray, that thou wouldst guide them by thy heavenly grace, and fill them with an early fear and love of thy holy name, that they may be as so many living fountains continually issuing forth pure streams to refresh and comfort us in our pilgrimage thro' this troublesome world.] Finally, send thy blessing upon those whom thou hast placed under us in the condition of servants: make them sober, honest, and industrious, obeying not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, as doing service to God, and not unto men. And dispose us by thy grace to give unto our servants that which is just and equal, with all gentleness and meekness; considering that we also have a Master in heaven. Grant this, O Lord, for Jesus Christ his sake, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

A PRAYER to be used by a Clergyman for himself, considered under the special Character of a Minister of Christ.

O Almighty God, who hast purchased to thyself an universal church by the precious blood of thy dear Son, and hast vouchsafed to call me to the office of a minister in the same; give me grace, that

I may study to shew myself thankful and dutiful unto thee who hast placed me in so high a dignity. Grant that I may always bear in my mind the end of my ministry towards thy children, and that I may never cease my care and labour, till I have done all that lieth in me, to bring them to that agreement in the faith, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there be no place left among them, either for error in religion, or for viciousness in life. To this end, make me diligent in reading the holy scriptures, in praying, in administering the sacraments according to thy ordinance, in driving away all erroneous and strange doctrines, and in using both publick and private admonitions and exhortations, as well to the sick as to the whole within my cure, as occasion shall be given, and need require. And do thou, O Lord, bless my earnest endeavours, by affording me a clear and perfect understanding of thy will, and enabling me from time to time so to sanctify my own life, and the lives of those that specially pertain unto me, that we may be wholesome and godly examples for the people to follow. And to those who are or shall be committed to my charge, give thy grace and heavenly benediction, that with meekness they may receive the ingrafted word, which is able to save their souls, that they may grow thereby: That
so,

so, as well by us thy ministers, as by those over whom we are appointed to minister, thy holy Name may be for ever glorified, and thy blessed kingdom enlarged; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

*Another Form of Prayer for the MORN-
ING, taken from the LITURGY.*

LET thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servant; and that I may obtain my petitions, make me to ask such things, as shall please thee; thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALmighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; Create in me a new and contrite heart, that I worthily lamenting my sins, and acknowledging my wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, who art the author of peace, and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect

perfect freedom; defend me thy humble servant, in all assaults of my enemies; that I, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, thro' the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O LORD our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought me to the beginning of this day; defend me in the same by thy mighty power; and grant that this day I fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all my doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; grant unto thy servant, that I may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so among the manifold changes of the world, my heart may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Almighty Lord, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, I beseech thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern both my heart and body in the ways of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments; that thro' thy most mighty
pro-

Prayers for Morning. 135

protection both here and ever, I may be preserv'd in body and soul, thro' our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O GOD, whose blessed Son was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil, and make us the sons of God, and heirs of eternal life; grant, I beseech thee, that having this hope, I may purify myself, even as he is pure: that when he shall appear again with power, and great glory, I may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

A Lmighty God, Father of all mercies, I thy unworthy servant, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to me, and to all mankind: I bless thee for my creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for the inestimable riches of thy love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and the hope of glory. And I beseech thee, give me that due sense of all thy mercies, that my heart may be unfeignedly thankful; and that I may shew forth thy praise not only with my lips, but in my life, by giving up myself to thy service, and by walk-

walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all my days, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord ; to whom with thee, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.



PRAYERS for NOON.



HOLY, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come ; thou art worthy to receive glory, honour, and power ; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created.

O holy and eternal Jesus, Lamb of God, who wert slain for the sins of the whole world ; and hast redeemed us to God, by thy blood, out of every nation ; blessing, honour, glory, and power be unto thee for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O eternal God, merciful and gracious, vouchsafe thy favour and thy blessing to thy servant. Let the love of thy mercies, and the dread and fear of thy Majesty, make me careful to search thy will, and diligent
to

to perform it, and to persevere in the practice of a holy life, even to the end of my days.

Keep me, O Lord, for I am thine by creation ; guide me, for I am thine by adoption and grace. Let thy mercy pardon my sins ; thy providence secure me from the punishments and evils I have deserved ; and thy care watch over me, that I may never any more offend thee. Make me in malice to be a child ; but in understanding, piety, and the fear of God, let me be a perfect man in Christ, readily furnished and instructed to every good work.

Let thine anger never rise against me ; but thy rod gently correct my follies, and guide me in thy ways ; and thy staff support me in all sufferings and changes. Preserve me (if it be thy will) from great violences of fortune, and sudden surprises. Keep all my senses entire, till the day of my death ; and let my death be neither untimely, nor unprovided.

Let no riches ever make me forget myself, no poverty ever make me to forget thee. Let no hope or fear, no pleasure or pain, no accident without, no weakness within, hinder or discompose my duty, or turn me from the ways of thy commandments. O let thy Spirit dwell with me for ever, and make my soul just and charitable ; full of honesty, full of religion, resolute and constant in holy
pur-

purposes, but inflexible to evil. Make me humble and obedient, peaceable and pious: Let me never envy any man's good, nor deserve to be despised myself; and if I be, teach me to bear it with meekness and charity.

Give me a tender conscience; a conversation discreet and affable, modest and patient, liberal and obliging, a body chaste and healthful; competency of living according to my condition; contentedness in all estates, a resigned will, and mortified affections; that my portion may be in the lot of the righteous, in the brightness of thy countenance, and the glories of eternity.

Amen.

Holy is our God, holy is the Almighty, holy is the Immortal: holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth, have mercy upon me.

Our Father, &c.

Another Form for Noon.

ALmighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear, than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; Pour down upon me the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving me those things whereof my conscience is afraid, and giving me those good things which I am not worthy to ask, but through
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the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

ALmighty and most merciful Father, I have erred and strayed from thy ways like a lost sheep. I have followed too much the devices and desires of my own heart. I have offended against thy holy laws. I have left undone those things which I ought to have done, and have done those things which I ought not to have done; and there is no health in me. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon me, miserable offender. Spare me, O my God, who confess my faults; restore me who am penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu my Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that I may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy Name. *Amen.*

O GOD, who knowest me to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our mortal nature, I cannot always stand aright; Grant to me such strength and protection as may support me in all dangers, and carry me thro' all temptations, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LORD, I beseech thee, give me grace to withstand the temptations of the world,
the

the flesh, and the devil; and with a pure heart and mind to follow thee, the only God, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

GRANT to me, Lord, I beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful; that I who cannot do any good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OLORD, who never failest to help and govern them whom thou didst bring up in thy stedfast fear and love; Keep me, I beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and make me to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALmighty and everlasting God, give me the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and that I may obtain that which thou dost promise, make me to love that which thou dost command, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LORD, I beseech thee to keep thy household the church in continual godliness, that thro' thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy Name, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty

A Lmighty and everlasting God, we are taught by thy holy word, that the hearts of kings are in thy rule and governance, and that thou dost dispose and turn them as it seemest best to thy godly wisdom; I humbly beseech thee so to dispose and govern the heart of **G E O R G E** thy servant, our king and governor; that in all his thoughts, words, and works, he may ever seek thy honour and glory, and study to preserve thy people committed to his charge, in wealth, peace, and godliness. Grant this, O merciful Father, for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Lmighty and everlasting God, who makest us both to will and to do those things that be good and acceptable to thy divine Majesty; I make my humble supplications to thee, for all my benefactors, friends, relations, and also for my very enemies. Let thy fatherly hand, I beseech thee, ever be over them; let thy Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of thy word, that in the end they may obtain everlasting life, thro' our Lord Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth ever one God, world without end.

O GOD the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, I humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men, that thou wouldst be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially I pray for the good estate of the catholick church, that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians, may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, I commend to thy fatherly goodness, all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions; and this I beg for Jesus Christ his sake. *Amen.*

ALmighty God, Father of all mercies, I thy unworthy servant do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to me, and to all mankind. I bless thee for my creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And I beseech thee give me

me that due sense of all thy mercies, that my heart may be unfeignedly thankful; and that I may shew forth thy praise, not only with my lips, but in my life, by giving up myself to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all my days, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

Another Form for N O O N.

O LORD, who dwellest in the highest heavens, *Our Father,* who art the author of our *which art in* being, hast begotten us also *heaven;* again unto a lively hope, and dost carry to us the tenderness and bowels of a compassionate father; Make us to render to thee the love and obedience of children; and that we may resemble thee, *our Father in heaven* (that place of true delight and purity) give us a holy disdain of all the deceitful pleasures and foul pollutions of this world; and so raise and elevate our minds, that we may always have our conversation in heaven, from whence we look for our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ.

Strike,

Strike, O my God, such an
 1. *Hallowed* awe in our hearts, that we
be thy name. may humbly reverence thee in
thy name, which is great, won-
 derful, and holy; and carry such a sacred
 respect to all things that relate to thee and
 thy worship, as may express our reverence
 to thy great Majesty. Let all the people
 praise thee, O God, let all the people praise
 thee.

Establish thy throne and
 2. *Thy king-* rule for ever in our souls, and
dom come. by the power of thy grace
 subdue all those rebellious
 corruptions, that exalt themselves against
 thee: they are those enemies of thine, which
 would not thou shouldst reign over them.
 O let them be brought forth and slain before
 thee; and make us such faithful subjects of
 thy kingdom of grace, that we may be ca-
 pable of the kingdom of glory; and then,
 Lord Jesus, come quickly.

Enable us by thy grace
 3. *Thy will be* cheerfully to suffer thy will in
done in earth, all our afflictions; and readily
 &c. perform it in all thy com-
 mands: give us of that hea-
 venly zeal to thy service, wherewith the
 blessed angels of thy presence are inspired,
 that we may obey thee with the like fervour
 and alacrity; and that following them in
 their obedience, we may be joined with them

to sing eternal praises in thy kingdom, to God, and to the Lamb for ever.

Give us that continual sup-

4. *Give us* ply of thy grace, which may
this day our sustain and nourish our souls
daily bread. unto life eternal. And be
thou pleased also to provide
for our bodies all those things, which thou
seest fit for their support through this our
earthly pilgrimage; and make us chearfully
to rest on thee for them; first seeking thy
kingdom, and the righteousness thereof;
and then not doubting, but all these things
shall be added to us.

Heal our souls, O Lord;

5. *And for-* for we have sinned against
give us our thee: Let thy tender mer-
trespasses, &c. cies abound towards us in
the forgiveness of all our
offences: and grant, O Lord, that we may
never forfeit this pardon of thine by deny-
ing ours to our brethren; but give us those
bowels of compassion to others, which we
stand in so much greater need of from thee;
that we may *forgive* as fully and finally
upon Christ's command, as we desire to be
forgiven for his merits and intercession.

O Lord, we have no

6. *And lead us* strength against the multi-
not into temp- tude of temptations that
tation, &c. daily assault us; only our
eyes are upon thee: O be

G

thou

thou pleased either to restrain them, or assist us; and in thy faithfulness suffer us not to be tempted above that we are able; but in all our temptations make us a way to escape, that we may not be overcome by them; but may, when thou shalt call us to it, resist even unto blood, striving against sin; that, being faithful unto death, thou mayest give us the crown of life.

Hear us, and graciously
 7. *For thine* answer our petitions; for thou
is the king- art the great King over all
dom, &c. the earth, whose power is infinite, and art able to do for us above all that we can ask or think; and to whom belongeth the glory of all that good, thou workest in us, or for us. Therefore blessing, honour, glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth on the throne, to our God for ever and ever. *Amen.*



PRAYERS for EVENING.


 LORD, I beseech thee, mercifully hear my prayers, and spare me, who confess my sins unto thee; that I, whose conscience by sin is accused, by thy merciful pardon may be

be absolved, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ALmighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; I acknowledge and bewail my manifold sins and wickedness, which I from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against me. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto me, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon me; have mercy upon me, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that I may hereafter serve and please thee, in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

I Humbly beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon my infirmities, and for the glory of thy name, turn from me all those evils, that I most righteously have deserved; and grant that in all my troubles I may put my whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee in holiness and pureness of living, to thy honour

nour and glory, thro' our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O LORD my God, who by thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, hast promised thy Holy Spirit to them who ask it of thee; I beseech thee to give him to me in all the graces and assistances of which I stand in need. I ask him in all humility and earnestness; in the sense of my own weakness and infirmities, as knowing, without his continual inspirations, I can desire nothing that is good, nor do any thing that is acceptable to thee. O therefore let him be with me, and remain with me, and most powerfully assist and support me in all trials and temptations, when I most need his help.

Let him be unto me a Spirit of sanctification to purify my corrupt nature; a Spirit of counsel in all difficulties, of direction in all doubts, of courage in all dangers, of constancy in all persecutions, of comfort in all troubles, especially in times of sickness, and at the hour of death; and of submission and resignation to thy holy will and pleasure, in all afflictions that are most grievous to flesh and blood.

Leave me not a moment to my own human frailty without his assistance; but let him constantly inspire me with fear, love, and devotion towards thee; with truth, justice,
and

and charity towards my neighbour; and with abstinence and sobriety towards myself.

Furthermore, I beseech thee, let him be unto me a Spirit of patience in all crosses, and in all provocations; a Spirit of trust, and stedfast repose of mind in thy care and providence; a Spirit of forgiveness to my enemies; a Spirit of humility to make me easy and quiet in myself, meek and gentle to others, and to free me from all the sin and torment of pride, envy, and ambition: and finally so let him guide and govern me thro' the whole course of my short life here, that I may obtain everlasting life, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Worthy art thou, O Lord of heaven and earth, to receive glory, and honour, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created: Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein: thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven praiseth thee.

Glory be to thee, O Lord God Almighty, for creating man after thine own image, and making so great a variety of creatures to minister to his use.

Glory be to thee, O heavenly Father, for my being and preservation, health and strength, understanding and memory, friends

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and benefactors, and for all my abilities both of mind and body.

Glory be to thee for my competent livelihood, for the advantage of my education, for all my known and unobserved deliverances; for the guard thy holy angels keep over me, and for the wonderful testimonies of thy patience and long-suffering towards me.

But above all, glory be to thee, for giving thy Son to die for my sins; and for all the spiritual blessings he has purchased for me; for my baptism, and all the opportunities thou givest me of serving thee, and of receiving the holy Eucharist: for whatever sin I have escaped, for whatever good I have done or thought, for all my helps of grace, and hopes of heaven, glory be to thee. *Praise the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.*

Glory be to thee, O Lord Jesus, for thy inexpressible love to lost man, for condescending to take our frail nature on thee, for all thy heavenly doctrine to instruct us, thy great miracles to convince us, and thy unblameable example to be a guide to us. Glory be to thee, for thy agony and bloody sweat, for all the torments and anguish of thy bitter passion. Glory be to thee, for thy glorious resurrection and ascension into heaven, and intercession for us at the right hand of thy Father. O gracious Lord, thou
who

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who hast done so much for me, how can I ever sufficiently praise and love thee! *Praise the Lord Jesus, O my soul; and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.*

Glory be to thee, O blessed Spirit; glory be to thee for all the miraculous gifts and graces thou didst bestow upon the apostles, to fit them to convert the world, and for inspiring the sacred penmen of holy scripture! Glory be to thee, for instilling holy thoughts into my soul, for all the ghostly strength and support, comfort and illumination I receive from thee; for all thy preventing, and restraining, and sanctifying grace. Glory be to thee, blessed Spirit! let me never more by my sins grieve thee, who art the author of life and joy to me. *Praise the Lord, O my Soul; and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.*

Blessing and honour, thanksgiving and praise, more than I can utter, more than I can conceive, be unto thee, O most adorable Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, by all angels, all men, all creatures, for ever and for ever. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

Another Form for EVENING.

O Almighty, most glorious and gracious God, who dwellest in the high and holy place, with him also that is of an humble and contrite spirit; Look with an eye of mercy upon thy unworthy and sinful creature, who now humble myself before thee, under a deep sense of my great and multiplied transgressions.

O thou infinite goodness, who delightest not in the death of a sinner; remember not against me the sins of my youth, nor of my riper years; but according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, think upon me, for thy goodness. Tho' I have sinned against thee, yet thou art my Creator, and I am thy creature; tho' like the prodigal I have gone astray from thy house, yet thou art my Father, and I am thy son; thou my Redeemer, and I the purchase of thy Son's most precious blood: O cast not therefore off the mercies of a God, nor the tender compassions of a Father; but consider my weakness as well as my sin; and then wash me clean in the blood of thy beloved Son: that when he shall come in power and great glory to judge the quick and dead, I may be able to stand before him, and may enter into his kingdom of eternal glory, there to reign with him world without end. *Amen.*

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O MOST gracious God, from whom every good and perfect gift cometh, I beseech thee to work in me both to will and to do of thy good pleasure.

Enlighten my mind that I may know thee, and let me not be barren and unfruitful in that knowledge. Lord, work in my heart a true faith, a purifying and an unfeigned love towards thee: Give me a full trust on thee, zeal for thee, reverence of all things that relate unto thee: Make me fearful to offend thee, thankful for thy mercies, humble under thy corrections, devout in thy service, sorrowful for my sins; and grant that in all things I may behave myself so, as befits a creature to his Creator, and a servant to his Lord.

Enable me likewise to perform that duty I owe to myself; give me that meekness, humility, and contentedness, whereby I may always possess my soul in patience and thankfulness: make me diligent in all my duties, watchful against all temptations, perfectly pure and temperate, and so moderate in my most lawful enjoyments, that they may never become a snare to me.

Make me also, O Lord; to be so affected toward my neighbour, that I may never transgress that royal law of thine, of loving him as myself. Grant me exactly to perform all parts of justice, yielding to all what-

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soever by any kind of right becomes their due; and give me such bowels of mercy and compassion, that I may never fail to do all acts of charity to all men, whether friends or enemies, according to thy command and example.

Finally, I beseech thee, O Lord, to sanctify me throughout, that my whole spirit, soul, and body, may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory for ever. *Amen.*

O Eternal God, who hast appointed all men once to die, and after death, the judgment; Teach me so to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom; and grant, that neither the splendor of any thing that is great, nor the conceit of any thing that is good in me, may slacken my care and diligence in thy service; but that I may press forward toward the prize of the high calling that is before me, with faith and patience, with humility and meekness, with mortification and self-denial, with charity and constant perseverance unto the end; that when I shall depart this life, I may sleep in the Lord Jesus; and at the general resurrection in the last day, I may be found acceptable in thy sight, and receive that blessing which thy well-beloved Son shall then

then pronounce to all that love and fear thee, saying, *Come, ye blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world.* Grant this, I beseech thee, O merciful Father, thro' Jesus Christ our Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

O Almighty and most merciful Father, who broughtest me out from the womb, and wast my hope when I hanged on my mother's breast; I adore and praise thee for all thy wonderful works, and thy thoughts to me-wards, which are more than I am able to express. Thou hast not only given me life and being, but many temporal good things, for the ease and comfort of my life. Thou hast graciously enriched me with thy spiritual blessings in Christ, and hast given me everlasting hope and consolation of thy mercies unto life eternal. Grant me, O my God, such a lively and lasting sense of thy great goodness to me, that I may continually pay thee the tribute of my unfeigned thanks; and may so affectionately love thee, and live unto thee in a sincere obedience to thy will, that from serving thee faithfully here, I may be translated to thy kingdom in heaven, there to sing eternal praises to thee, who, with thy only-begotten Son, and the ever blessed Spirit, liveth and reigneth one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

Another Form of EVENING Prayer.

I Adore thee, O most mighty God, and loving Father, for thy gracious dispensation to the sons of men, in thy only-begotten Son Jesus Christ; thro' whose death and sufferings we have the assurances of pardon and forgiveness, by faith and true repentance. Wash me from my sins in the fountain of his most precious blood, and vouchsafe me the inward consolations of thy pardoning grace, that the wounds of my spirit may be healed, and the dread of thy fearful indignation pass from me. And do thou confirm and establish me with thy free Spirit, that I may run with delight the way of thy commandments; may continually offer to thee the sacrifice of praise, for delivering me from the power and dominion of sin; and by patient continuance in well-doing, may rejoice in the peace and comfort of a good conscience, and finally obtain glory and immortality, thro' the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ; to whom, with thee, O loving Father, and the blessed sanctifying Spirit, be all honour, glory, adoration, and praise, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O Almighty and most gracious God, who of thy tender mercy hast promised eternal life to those that diligently serve and fear thee,

thee, incline my heart to a religious fear of thy holy Name, that I may have my portion with thee in thy kingdom of Glory. Shew me thy ways, O Lord, and teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and learn me; for thou art the God of my salvation. Let no dangers or difficulties hinder my progress or divert my course; but grant me a quiet and comfortable passage to the land of promise; there to rest from all my labours, and to live, love, and be happy with thee to all eternity, thro' the all-sufficient merits and mediation of thy only Son, my ever blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

O Most holy and eternal God, in whose hand is the soul of every living creature, and the breath of all mankind; Teach me, I humbly pray thee, to live in a constant preparation for the hour of death, that when the time of my change shall come, I may receive it with inward peace and tranquillity of mind. Preserve me, O God, at that difficult hour, from any violence of fear, which the sense of guilt, or the apprehension of an approaching judgment, may, in my then weak and languishing state of body, betray me to. Defend me from the power and malice of the great adversary, that none of his evil suggestions may disturb my peace, or defraud me of my hope and confidence in thee. Be thou, O God, my
com-

comfort and support, when all other worldly consolations fail. Do thou stand by and assist me in my last conflict ; and the more the outward man decayeth, strengthen me so much the more continually with thy grace and Holy Spirit in the inner man. Give me, if it be thy blessed will, a foretaste of the spiritual joys of thy kingdom ; and when thou pleasest to release my soul from this earthly prison, give thy holy angels charge over it, to convey it to the paradise of God, there to wait with the general assembly of the first-born, till the resurrection at the last day, and finally with them to have a perfect consummation and bliss both of body and soul, in thy eternal and glorious kingdom, thro' the merits of Christ Jesus, our only Mediator and Advocate.

O GOD the Creator and Governor of mankind, accept, I beseech thee, of these my humble supplications, which I offer unto thee for all sorts and conditions of men. Enlighten those that are in darkness, inform the erroneous, reclaim the disobedient ; and let all that name the Name of Christ, depart from iniquity. Of thy fatherly goodness, give ease and refreshment to those that lie upon beds of sickness, under the burden of strong pains, or great weakness of body. Send deliverance to the captive ; support and comfort those that suffer for truth and
righteous-

righteousness sake ; defend and provide for the fatherless and widow, and for all that are desolate and oppressed. Send forth thy gracious aids and consolations, to comfort and help the weak-hearted ; to raise up them that fall ; and to heal the wounded in spirit, who groan under the terrors of guilt, and the dread of thy wrathful indignation. Suit thy mercies to their sundry needs and exigencies, and give them cause to praise thy holy Name, by a happy deliverance from their pains and sorrows ; and grant, O Lord, that in a due sense of thy great goodness in preserving me from many dangers, and delivering me from many evils, which my sins have justly deserved ; I may express my gratitude to thee, in compassionating the miseries and distresses of others, and contributing, to the best in my power, to their comfort and relief. And let the sense of the many blessings and comforts I enjoy, engage me faithfully to walk in the love and fear of thy holy Name, and in a firm trust and dependence on thy good providence ; that I may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, as finally to obtain the haven of everlasting rest and peace, thro' the merits and mediation of Jesus, my blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*



PRAYERS *for* NIGHT.



LORD, I beseech thee, mercifully hear my prayers, and spare all those that confess their sins unto thee; that I, whose conscience by sin is accused, by thy merciful pardon may be absolved, thro' Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O MOST mighty God, and merciful Father, who hast compassion upon all men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made; who wouldst not the death of a sinner, but that he should rather turn from his sin, and be saved; Mercifully forgive me my trespasses: receive and comfort me, who am grieved and wearied with the burden of my sin: Thy property is alway to have mercy; to thee only it appertaineth to forgive sins. Spare me therefore, good Lord, spare thy servant, whom thou hast redeemed; enter not into judgment with me, who am vile dust, and a miserable sinner; but so turn thine anger from me, who meekly and truly repent me of my faults; and so make haste to help me in this world, that I may for ever live with thee

Prayers for Night.

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thee in the world to come, thro' Jesus Christ
our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all
good counsels, and all just works, do
proceed; Give unto thy servant that peace
which the world cannot give; that both my
heart may be set to obey thy command-
ments, and also that by thee being defended
from the fear of my enemies, I may pass my
time in rest and quietness, thro' Jesus Christ
our Lord. *Amen.*

Lighten my darkness, I beseech thee, O
Lord, and by thy great mercy defend
me from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of thy only Son our Saviour
Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Almighty God, who seekest that we have
no power of ourselves to help ourselves,
keep me both outwardly in my body, and
inwardly in my soul; that I may be defended
from all adversities, which may happen to
the body, and from all evil thoughts, which
may assault and hurt the soul, thro' Jesus
Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O LORD, raise up, I pray thee, thy
power, and with might succour and de-
fend me; that whereas, thro' my sins and
wickedness, I am sore lett and hindered in
running

running the race that is set before me ; thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver me ; thro' the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord ; to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

O GOD, who hast prepared for them that love thee, such good things as pass man's understanding ; pour into my heart such love towards thee, that I loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that I can desire, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Lmighty God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life ; give me grace, that I may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life, thro' the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

G RANT, O Lord, that, as I am baptized into the death of thy blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ ; so by continually mortifying my corrupt affections, I may be buried with him ; and that thro' the grave, and gate of death, I may pass to a joyful resurrection, for his merits, who died and was buried, and rose again for us, thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *AL-*

ALmighty God, Father of all mercies, I thy unworthy servant do give thee most humble and hearty thanks, for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to me, and to all mankind. I bless thee for my creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And I beseech thee, give me that due sense of all thy mercies, that my heart may be unfeignedly thankful; and that I may shew forth thy praise not only with me lips, but in my life, by giving up myself to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all my days, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with thee, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

UNTO God's gracious mercy and protection I commit myself, [*all of this family, and in the neighbourhood:*] The Lord bless and keep us: The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us: The Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

Another

Another Form of NIGHT Devotions.

O Eternal God, Father of men and angels, who hast established the heavens and the earth in a wonderful order; I make my humble address to thy divine Majesty, returning most humble thanks for the blessings of the day past, and begging of thee mercy and protection this night and ever. Behold, O God, my soul is troubled in the remembrance of my sins; in the frailty and infirmity of my flesh, by which I am exposed to manifold temptations, tho' of myself unable to resist any. O Lord, grant me such a measure of thy grace, as may enable me to repent and amend. Teach me to walk always as in thy presence; to have such a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name, that it may become the great employment of my whole life to serve thee, to advance thy glory, and to root out all the accursed habits of sin; that in holiness of life, in humility, in charity, in chastity, and in all the ornaments of grace, I may by patience wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Visit, I beseech thee, O Lord, this habitation with thy mercy, and me with thy grace and salvation. Let thy holy angels pitch their tents round about, and dwell here; that the spirit of darkness may not come near to hurt me, nor any evil or sad accident oppress

Prayers for Night. 165

press me ; and let thy eternal Spirit dwell in my soul, filling my heart with light and grace.

So bless and sanctify my sleep unto me, that it may be temperate, holy, and safe, a refreshment to my wearied body, to enable it to serve my soul, that both may serve thee with a never-failing duty. O let me never sleep in sin, or eternal death ; but give me a watchful and prudent spirit, that when the work of my life is done, I may rest in the bosom of my Lord ; till by the voice of the archangel I shall be awakened, and called to sit down and feast in the eternal supper of the Lamb. Grant this, O Lamb of God, for the honour of thy mercies, and the glory of thy Name, O most merciful Saviour and Redeemer Jesus. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

Another Form for NIGHT.

O MOST great and glorious Lord God, just and terrible in thy judgments to obstinate and wilful sinners ; but of infinite mercy and compassion to such as truly repent and turn unto thee ; Hear, I beseech thee, the prayers of thy humble servant, which I now present to the throne of grace, for the pardon and forgiveness of my sins, whether in thought, word, or deed, committed against thy

thy supreme Majesty ; in particular the sins and offences of this day past. Work in me, O God, that true godly sorrow to repentance not to be repented of, that I may obtain mercy thro' the merits of Jesus my Redeemer. Wash me thoroughly from my pollutions in the fountain of his precious blood, and apply to me the comforts of thy pardoning grace, in saying to my soul, Thou art its salvation. And grant, O Lord, that, denying all ungodliness, and worldly lusts, I may live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world, looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ; that when he shall appear, I may also appear with him in glory.

And now, O Father of mercies, in an humble sense of thy great goodness, I adore and praise thy glorious Majesty, for the manifold blessings and favours vouchsafed to thy unworthy servant, particularly for those of this day past. I bless thee, O Lord, for whatever sins I have escaped, and whatever good I have been enabled to do ; for preserving me in health and safety, continuing to me the enjoyment of so many comforts, and for delivering me from the evils which I have most justly deserved, and to which I am continually exposed. But above all, I praise and magnify thy holy Name, for the redemption of mankind by the death and passion of thy beloved Son. O give me grace

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to make a right use and improvement of all these and other thy mercies, that thou mayest continue to be my safety and defence against the many calamities of this mortal life. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to take me this night into thy protection and care; preserve me from all evil, and especially from that of sin. Give thy holy angels charge over me, and let no casualty or sad accident come near to hurt me: and raise me up again in health and safety, with a heart full of love to thee, and zeal to thy service, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with Thee, and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.



Prayers for SUNDAY MORNING.

 Lessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by the resurrection of his Son from the dead, hath begotten us to a lively hope of an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us.

Blessed

168 Prayers *for* Sunday Morning.

Blessed be God the Son, who by raising himself this day from the dead, hath declared himself the Son of God with power, and that he is able to save them who come unto God thro' him.

Blessed be God the Holy Ghost, who by mighty signs and wonders, hath given evidence to the truth of our Lord's resurrection, that our faith and hope might be in God.

I bless thee, O Lord my God, for the great mystery of thy love, in sending thy only Son in our flesh, to procure peace and reconciliation for mankind, and to be a light and guide to us, in the way to eternal life and happiness.

I magnify thy great and glorious Name, that I am initiated by baptism into the mystical body of thy Son, and intitled to all the benefits of the covenant sealed with his blood.

I glorify thee for all the outward helps and means of grace; thy ministers, thy holy word and sacraments, which thou hast ordained for my spiritual support and comfort; for the illuminations, preventions, and assistances of thy holy Spirit, by which I am forwarded in the way of my duty.

I bless thee, my God, for the many comforts and accommodations of this present life, to sweeten this my wearisome pilgrimage to that better life which is to come; for thy
great

Prayers for Sunday Morning. 169

great goodness, in delivering me from the perils of the night past, and bringing me in health and safety to the beginning of this holy day, ordained as a rest from worldly care and business, the more closely to attend the care of our souls, and the concerns of eternity.

Grant, O Lord, that I may spend this and all other times set apart to thy immediate service, in such an holy and religious manner, as may best promote thy honour and glory, and set forward the salvation of my own soul.

Go along with me to thy holy temple, and give me such an humble and devout frame of mind, that no vain thoughts and amusements may distract my devotions, and render my religious duties unacceptable in thy sight. Let me banish from my heart whatever favours of the world, when I enter into thy house; and grant that my addresses to thee may be with an awfulness and regard suitable, in some measure, to the greatness of thy Majesty. That I may not rest in an outward form of godliness, nor take up with the name, and shew, and profession only of Christianity; but that, being influenced with the power and spirit of religion, the gospel of thy dear Son, and the graces of thy Holy Spirit, may shine forth in my life, to the glory of thy name, and the salvation of my soul.

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170 Prayers for Sunday Morning.

Let thy good Spirit, O Lord, be powerfully assisting to the ministers and stewards of thy word [particularly to him under whose ministry thy providence has placed me]; that no prejudices or indispositions of mind may hinder its due and saving efficacy upon my soul. Give me, and all those that attend thy holy ordinances, that humble and teachable spirit, which becomes those that would learn of thee; and let every good instruction and admonition that shall be given us, sink deep into our hearts, and bring forth in us the fruits of an holy and religious life; that we may not be hearers of thy word only, but doers of the same, lest we deceive ourselves.

Keep me, O Lord, this day under thy guidance and direction: Preserve me outwardly in my body, and inwardly in my soul, that no casualty or sad accident may hurt the one, nor any evil approach the other. Defend me from the power and malice of the great adversary, from the corruptions of my own sinful nature, and from those sins especially that do so easily beset and ensnare me. Pardon and forgive my sins, whether of omission or commission, whereby I have offended thy divine Majesty; and strengthen my good resolutions of obedience for the future. Make me truly sensible of my infirmities; watchful over them; careful to cut off all occasions of sin; diligent

Prayers for Sunday Evening. 171

gent in the use of all those means which are appointed for my growth and increase in all virtue, and godliness of living. And grant me thy Holy Spirit to direct and sanctify, to strengthen and confirm me to the end; that I may happily arrive at the *rest* reserved for the people of God, and with them behold the glory of the Divine Majesty, and forever adore the eternal Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; To whom be all honour, adoration, love, and praise, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayers for SUNDAY EVENING.

O Almighty God, the supreme Lord and Governor of the world, who dwellest in the highest heavens, yet humblest thyself to behold the things that are in heaven and earth; Look with an eye of pity upon thy unworthy servant, who now present myself before thee in an humble acknowledgment of my past sins and offences. Shouldst thou, Lord, enter into judgment, and be extreme to mark what I have done amiss, how should I be able to stand before thee! But, O thou who hast declared thyself merciful and gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, behold me not as a sinner, but as the purchased and redeemed of thy Son Jesus! Let his wounds heal my transgressions! his blood wash off my pollutions! Let his

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sorrows give me joy ! his death give me life !
that I may live to him here in purity, and
hereafter for ever be happy with him in his
eternal kingdom ; for his infinite merits sake,
my ever-blessed Saviour and Redeemer.
Amen.

O Almighty Father, the fountain of light
and purity, who to the gifts of nature
art pleased to superadd the light of grace, to
those that ask it in thy Son's Name ; Give
me an understanding heart to know my duty,
and strength sufficient to do whatever thou
requirest. Possess me, O my God, with wor-
thy and honourable thoughts of thy divine
Majesty ; an awful sense of thy power and
presence ; a filial fear of offending thee ; an
inflamed love and affection to thee ; Give
me pleasure and delight in studying thy holy
will and laws ; watchfulness, courage, and
resolution, in performing them ; earnest and
constant endeavours of advancing daily to
yet greater measures of perfection. Enrich
me with the graces of humility, meekness,
truth, and sincerity ; with the lovely orna-
ments of temperance, chastity, justice, and
charity. Give me a patient and resigned
spirit, under all the dispensations of thy wise
and good providence ; a firm trust and de-
pendence on thee, for the things of this pe-
rishing life, and a lively faith and hope in
thy mercies to life eternal. Possess me with
pious

Prayers for Sunday Evening. 173

piousthoughts, and heavenly affections; with holy longings and aspirings after thee and thy kingdom; that I may chearfully and thankfully resign my soul to thee, when thou art pleased to call me; and by the ministry of the blessed angels, may be conveyed to the spirits of just men made perfect; to wait with them for the glories of the resurrection, and with them to be received to the highest heaven, there to behold thy glory, to know thee, and be made like unto thee; to love thee, and be loved by thee, and to honour, adore, and praise thee, to all eternity. Grant this, O merciful Father, for Jesus Christ his sake, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

BLessed God, who hast caused all holy Scripture to be written for our learning; Open mine eyes, that I may see the wondrous things of thy law. O let that word of life be my continual study and delight, and the instrument of communicating to me the comforts and supports of thy Holy Spirit, that I may daily grow in grace, and in the knowledge of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and be every day wiser and better, and more and more prepared for an happy eternity. And grant, O thou eternal fountain of spiritual life and peace, that thy holy Word, which hath been heard this day with my outward ears, may be so deeply graven

on the table of my heart, that it may never be blotted out. Suffer not the wicked one to take it away; neither let the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, or the lusts of the flesh, render it useless and unfruitful; but, like good seed sown in good ground, let it bring forth those fruits of holiness, which may secure to me an inheritance of everlasting glory, by virtue of his meritorious sufferings, who lived, and was dead, and is alive for evermore, my ever-blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

[This general Intercession may be added to any of the precedent or subsequent Forms.]

O Blessed God, whose tender mercies are over all thy works; I beseech thee to extend thy pity and compassion to the whole race of mankind; let the bright beams of thy gospel shine upon all the dark corners of the earth; that those who sit in darkness, may come to the knowledge and practice of thy laws, and their souls be sav'd in the day of the Lord Jesus. More especially, O Lord, be merciful to these sinful nations to which I belong; pardon our great and crying sins, and avert from us all the evils we have so justly deserved. Put a stop to all profaneness, irreligion, and impiety; to our unhappy strifes and animosities; and let truth and righteousness, brotherly love and unity, flourish

A general Intercession. 175

flourish and increase among us. Bless all those whom thou hast appointed our governors, whether in church or state; so rule their hearts, and strengthen their hands, that they may neither want will nor power to punish wickedness and vice, and to maintain thy true religion and virtue. Be merciful, O Lord, to all that are in any affliction or distress; that labour under any poverty or persecution, under bodily pains and diseases, or under strong temptations and trouble of mind. Be pleased, O Lord, to support and comfort them, to sanctify thy dispensations to them, and in thy good time to deliver them according to thy great mercy. Send down the graces of thy Holy

Spirit upon all my relations and friends [** particularly my father and mother, &c.*];

** Let this be varied as every one stands related.*

pardon all our sins; unite our hearts in a mutual love of each other; and vouchsafe to every one of us whatever thy infinite wisdom knows to be most needful and expedient both for our souls and bodies. Reward all those that have been any ways instrumental to my good, and pardon all those that have done or wished me evil; and work in them and me all that good which may make us acceptable in thy sight, thro' Jesus Christ our Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.



P R A Y E R S

F O R T H E

Use of Devout Communicants.

A PRAYER to be added to our ordinary Devotions, some time before the Receiving the BLESSED SACRAMENT.

I COME to thee, O Lord my God, from whom are the preparations of the heart, and the good disposition of our minds for thy worship and service. Fit me, O Lord, by hearty contrition for my sins, and a sincere resolution of a better course, to approach thy altar. Accept of the expiation which thy Son hath made of all my transgressions by the sacrifice of himself, as of a lamb without spot and blemish. Let the remembrance of my sins, and his bitter sufferings for them, pierce my very heart,

heart, and engage me to love and serve him, who laid down his precious life for me. Cleanse me, O Lord, from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, that I may be a fit guest for thy holy table; and a partaker of those blessings and benefits, which are represented in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood. Strengthen, O God, all good resolutions in me; enable me by thy grace faithfully to perform the conditions of that covenant, which I made in baptism, and intend to renew in the holy Sacrament, by dedicating myself entirely, and for ever, to the service of my blessed Redeemer, who hath loved me, and washed me from my sins in his own blood. To him be all honour and glory, thanksgiving and praise, love and obedience, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A PRAYER to be used on the Morning we receive.

ALmighty God, of whose infinite bounty and goodness it is, that an opportunity is now offered to me of approaching thy altar; Assist me with thy Holy Spirit in the great duty and service I am going to perform; and grant that no interruptions may make me unmindful of that reverence and respect which is due unto thy divine Majesty, in the celebration of these holy mysteries. Touch my heart with such an awe of thy

presence, as may fix my wandering thoughts, compose my tumultuous affections, and stir up my flat and cold desires, that I may feel the power, and taste the sweetness, of this heavenly banquet.

Grant, that I may have such a sense of my Saviour's sufferings, as may fill my soul with love and gratitude towards him, for those inestimable benefits he has purchased for me: Such a sight of my sins, which occasioned all his sorrows, as heartily to bewail and detest them: Such a faith in that full, perfect oblation and satisfaction made upon the cross for the sins of the world, as may render thee gracious and propitious to me: Such longing desires of being made conformable to thy holy will and pleasure, as may transform me into thy divine image, and make me continue thy faithful servant to my life's end, thro' the merits of Jesus Christ my Mediator and Redeemer. *Amen.*

A PRAYER to be used at Church, before the Sacramental Service begins.

O Crucified Saviour, who at thy last supper didst ordain the holy Sacrament, for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of thy death; Fix in me such a remembrance of thee, as is suitable to the infinite love I am to remember. Work in me holy and
hea-

heavenly affections; and so dispose my heart to be thy guest at thy holy table, that I may feel all the sweet influences of thy grace strengthening and refreshing my soul, as my body is strengthened by the bread and wine. O merciful Jesu, let that immortal food which thou vouchsafest me, instil into my weak and languishing soul, new life, new love, new vigour, and new resolution; that I may never more faint, or droop, or tire in my duty. *Amen, Lord Jesus, Amen.*

A PRAYER when we offer our Alms.

ACcept, O Lord, this free-will offering at my hands, as an acknowledgment that all I have is received from thee, and as a testimony of that love and charity to my necessitous brethren, which thou requirest, and art pleased to take as done to thyself. And grant that my alms-deeds may be performed with purity of mind, and with such a proportion to what thou hast given me, that they may be acceptable in thy sight, thro' the merits of Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

A PRAYER when we approach the holy Table, or when the Priest is drawing nigh, to administer to us the sacred Elements.

I Acknowledge, O God, my great unworthiness to approach thy holy table, and to partake of the benefits of the sacrifice of thy Son's death, which was made upon the cross for sinners. I humbly confess, and am truly sorry for my sins, whereby I have provoked thy wrath and indignation against me. Forgive me, O merciful Father, my past transgressions, for thy Son Jesus Christ his sake. Fortify my good resolutions of sincere obedience for the future, and give me strength and power faithfully to persevere in love and duty to the end of my days, that I may finally obtain the crown of everlasting life and glory, thro' the same Jesus Christ my ever-blessed Lord and Saviour.
Amen.

A PRAYER at the Receiving of the Bread.

LORD, I receive this broken bread, the representation of thy body, in memory of thy wonderful incarnation, and meritorious suffering ; and do sincerely promise and
vow,

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vow, that by the grace of God, I will persist in the stedfast belief of thy most excellent religion, and sincere obedience to thy most holy laws, to my life's end. *Amen.*

A PRAYER after Receiving the Bread.

GRANT, O Lord, that this bread of life, received by me in stedfast faith, and humble thankfulness, may refresh and nourish my soul, and be an effectual means of the growth of my graces, and increase of my comforts, till I come to life everlasting, thro' Jesus Christ my Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER before the Receiving of the Cup.

WHAT manner of love was this, that while we were enemies, Christ died for us! Lord, make me deeply sensible of this astonishing goodness, and enable me to express my thankfulness in a constant sincere obedience to him who hath redeemed me with his most precious blood, that I may for ever live with him in his kingdom of endless glory, for his infinite merits sake. *Amen.*

A PRAYER after the Receiving the Cup.

I Give thee my humble and hearty thanks, O blessed Jesus, for shedding thy precious blood a ransom for sinners; and beg that the sense of thy love may so powerfully possess my soul, that I may die unto sin, as thou diedst for it, and may rise unto thee in true righteousness and holiness of life; that, continuing in thy love, I may rejoice in the peace of a good conscience, and finally be partaker of thy heavenly glory, for thy infinite merits sake. *Amen.*

A PRAYER after Receiving both the Elements, when we return to our Seats.

Blessed be thy Name, O adorable Jesus! who, in compassion to our infirmities, hast commanded us to commemorate the sacrifice of thy death. Grant that the power of thy love may be so deeply rooted and grounded in my heart, that it may become a vital principle of obedience, mortifying in me all worldly and carnal affections, and quickening every good word and work. O teach me to express my love to thee in the most acceptable manner, by keeping thy
com-

Devout Communicants. 183

commandments; that I may abide in thy love, even as thou hast kept thy Father's commandments, and abidest in his love. And grant, O blessed Lord, that the bread and wine, which I have now received as the symbols of thy body which was broken, and thy blood which was shed for me, may be a sure pledge and earnest of thy mercies; that, abounding in the hope of the heavenly glory, I may purify myself, even as thou art pure, and be qualified with the angels and the spirits of just men made perfect, to honour, praise, and adore thee for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Psalms for *Friday*, in particular the 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, will be a proper entertainment for our thoughts, if there be a great number of communicants, to lengthen out the service.

PRAYERS *to be used in private, when we retire at any time in the day to our closets, after Receiving the BLESSED SACRAMENT.*

I PRAISE and magnify thy great and glorious Name, O Lord my God, for the opportunity afforded me this day of commemorating thy infinite goodness and mercy to me, and to all mankind, in sending thy
only

only Son into the world to take our nature upon him, to submit to the infirmities and miseries of it, and to live amongst us, and to die for us. Grant, O Lord, that I may faithfully keep and perform that covenant, which I have this day so solemnly renewed and confirmed in thy presence, and at thy holy table. Let the remembrance of thy love inspire me with such enlarged sentiments of duty, that nothing may seem too hard for me to do, or too grievous for me to suffer, for thy sake. And grant that this sacrament may be unto me a perpetual source of spiritual life and strength; that under all changes and chances which may happen, I may be prepared to accomplish thy holy will; for his sake who died for my sins, and rose again for my justification, and is now set down at thy right hand, to make intercession for me, my ever-blessed Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Another.

MOST merciful and gracious God, who of thy great goodness didst give thy Son Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to humble himself to death, even the death of the cross; I beseech thee, by his infinite condescension, by his perfect obedience, and meritorious sufferings, to pardon my past sins, and to endue me with
power

Devout Communicants. 185

power and strength to resist them for the time to come. Let the virtue of these holy mysteries so replenish me with the gifts and graces of thy Spirit, that I may be enabled to act conformably to the light of my own mind, and the precepts of thy holy Word. Give me a *zealous sense of piety* towards thee. Let me reverence thy worship, and thy mysteries. Let me submit to all the afflictions thou shalt think fit to lay upon me, with patience, and with meekness. Let me trust to thy providence to support me under all dangers, and to supply all my necessities. And let me thankfully acknowledge thy bounty, for all those good things which thou so freely hast bestowed upon me.

Give me, O Lord, that *divine wisdom*, which proposes the pleasing thee, as the end and aim of all my actions, and which directs to all those means which thou hast established for the working out my salvation; that my time may not be wasted in idleness or vanity, nor my talents buried in sensuality; but that, forming a right judgment in all things, the great care and business of my life may be to obtain thy favour, that I may be partaker of the blessings of the life to come. To this end, make me constant and fervent in prayer; frequent and devout in meditations, in reading

ing

ing and hearing thy holy Word, and in partaking of the Sacrament of the body and blood of thy Son. Let the fear of offending thee make me watchful, amidst those manifold dangers and temptations that surround me in this my earthly pilgrimage. And above all things, deliver me from the slavery and dominion of *pride*, that hateful, accursed thing in thy sight! Let me follow the example of my blessed Saviour, in condescending to the lowest offices, for the good of others: And give me such a sense of my own defects, as may restrain all immoderate desires of [honour. Let me do nothing thro' strife and vain-glory, nor exalt myself above others; remembering that I have nothing but what I received from thee.

Grant, O Lord, that I may *love* thee above all things; and let my love towards thee manifest itself in those amiable fruits, piety and charity. Let it purge my mind from all vile affections; work in me a contempt of the allurements of this world; and make me so much superior to all difficulties, which may meet me in the way of my duty, that, far from discouraging me, they may excite my zeal, and increate my resolution to serve thee more effectually. Let it suppress all the bitter effects of envy, that I may compassionate my neighbour's misfortunes,

fortunes, and rejoice in all the good things that thou art pleased to bestow upon him; that I may be tender of his reputation, and never expose it by unjust or rash censures, nor by any officious relation of his real infirmities: That I may be patient and meek under all provocations, and never forward to return any injurious treatment.

Give me, O Lord, that *sobriety* of mind, that I may know how to abound, and how to want; that mastery over my appetites, that I may bring my body into subjection, nor ever suffer myself to be betray'd into intemperance and sensuality. Finally, make me so mindful of that strict account I must give of all my actions at thy dreadful tribunal seat, that it may mortify in me all sin and vanity, and stir me up to zeal and diligence in performing all those things which are acceptable in thy sight.

Conscious of my insufficiency to do all these things by my own strength, I apply to thee, O God, for the aids of thy grace, held forth to all that ask it, by the mercies of that covenant which (according to the institution of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ) I have this day commemorated in the outward symbols of bread and wine. O Lord! hear me: O Lord! succour and defend me, that I may continue

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tinue thy servant for ever, and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until I come to thine everlasting kingdom.
Amen.

Our Father, &c.





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